

## **Ryan Zinke (MT-AL) Research Book**

The following report contains research on Ryan Zinke, the Republican candidate in Montana's At-Large Congressional District. By accepting this report, you are accepting responsibility for all information and analysis included. Therefore, it is your responsibility to verify all claims against the original documentation before you make use of it.

Make sure you understand the facts behind our conclusions before making any specific charges against anyone.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>ZINKE’S BUSINESSES</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>ZINKE’S NON-PROFITS</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>PROPERTY OWNERSHIP &amp; TAX HISTORY</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES</b> .....	<b>44</b>
<b>POLITICAL CAREER</b> .....	<b>48</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE &amp; EFFECTIVENESS</b> .....	<b>69</b>
<b>PERKS OF OFFICE</b> .....	<b>77</b>
<b>POLITICS OF SELF-INTEREST</b> .....	<b>82</b>
<b>PUT AMBITIONS BEFORE MONTANANS</b> .....	<b>88</b>
<b>SAY ANYTHING... TO GET ELECTED</b> .....	<b>102</b>
<b>TOO EXTREME</b> .....	<b>110</b>
<b>SPECIAL OPERATIONS FOR AMERICA PAC</b> .....	<b>127</b>
<b>SEAL PAC</b> .....	<b>146</b>
<b>KEY MOMENTS ON VIDEO</b> .....	<b>151</b>
<b>ABORTION &amp; WOMEN’S ISSUES</b> .....	<b>157</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE ISSUES</b> .....	<b>169</b>
<b>BUDGET ISSUES - FEDERAL</b> .....	<b>177</b>
<b>BUDGET ISSUES - MONTANA</b> .....	<b>195</b>
<b>CAMPAIGN FINANCE &amp; ELECTION LAW</b> .....	<b>201</b>
<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> .....	<b>204</b>
<b>CONSUMER ISSUES</b> .....	<b>207</b>
<b>CRIME &amp; PUBLIC SAFETY</b> .....	<b>215</b>
<b>DEFENSE</b> .....	<b>222</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b> .....	<b>247</b>
<b>ENERGY ISSUES</b> .....	<b>260</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</b> .....	<b>280</b>
<b>FINANCIAL ISSUES</b> .....	<b>305</b>
<b>FOREIGN POLICY</b> .....	<b>314</b>
<b>GUNS</b> .....	<b>353</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b> .....	<b>364</b>
<b>IMMIGRATION &amp; BORDER ISSUES</b> .....	<b>380</b>

**LABOR & JOBS..... 389**  
**MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES ..... 397**  
**MILITARY & VETERANS..... 402**  
**NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES..... 423**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES ..... 443**  
**REGULATORY REFORM..... 507**  
**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ..... 514**  
**SENIORS..... 526**  
**TAXES ..... 531**  
**TERRORISM & NATIONAL SECURITY ..... 538**  
**TRADE..... 563**  
**TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE ..... 572**  
**INTEREST GROUP RATINGS..... 602**  
**SPONSORSHIPS & COSPONSORSHIPS ..... 605**  
**MONTANA SENATE VOTE COUNT..... 621**  
**MEDIA APPEARANCES ..... 674**  
**CAMPAIGN FINANCE..... 677**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## ZINKE'S BUSINESSES

- **Continental Divide International, LLC:** Zinke's primary business was formed in 2005 with his immediate family as the officers and his primary residence listed as the companies address. The company was referred to as a "business development consulting company" and as a "property management" company. Zinke's super PAC, SOFA PAC, paid the firm nearly \$40,000 in 2012 and 2013, yet Zinke denied ever "taking a paycheck." He also repeatedly changed the deed of his residence to being under the business name, then his own, then the business again. He did the same with other properties. Possible reasons for this are unclear. After getting elected, Zinke told the press he would move to an "advisory" role and let his family run the business.
- **Save the World Air (STWA):** The oil pipeline company began as a consulting client for Zinke, with Zinke arranging meetings and introductions, then he joined the board of directors in 2012 making him entitled to receive fees and stock options, and he reported \$85,000 in income from the company in 2013. In 2013, the company was listed under a "bankruptcy warning" and during Zinke's tenure had a history of questionable tax payment issues. In 2015, Zinke left the board after being sworn in to Congress.
- **On Point Montana, LLC:** The 2009 Zinke company based in his personal residence, and was listed as a "consulting business." In 2013, Zinke reported \$52,000 in income.
- **Double Tap, LLC:** The Zinke business was formed in 2011 as a MicroBrewery with Jamie Zinke, his sister. However, in 2013, the company was involuntarily dissolved after opposition from neighbors led them to pull the application.

## ZINKE'S NON-PROFITS

- **Montana Firearms Institute:** In 2011, Zinke formed the Montana Firearms Institute as a lobbying organization hoping to bring gun businesses and manufacturers together. By 2014, it appeared "to be mostly inactive."
- **Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, Inc.:** In 2007, Zinke founded the organization and served as the president. In 2010, it brought in \$197,000 in contributions, for total net assets of \$369,060. Zinke turned part of the Whitefish cemetery's land into a park.
- **Center for Remote Integration:** Zinke was president of the "industry led and funded" organization founded in 2010. It was designed to promote Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) - also known as "drones." In 2013, it was involuntarily dissolved.

## PROPERTY OWNERSHIP & TAX HISTORY

- Zinke owns numerous properties, both in his name and in the name of his companies, and has frequently transferred properties between his name and a business name for unknown reasons.
- Zinke had five late property tax payments.
- Zinke owned property in California, but records show he sold his last property there in 2006.
- Zinke's wife owned what appeared to be a boat slip in Santa Barbara, but no other properties there were found in her name.
- A 2016 Zinke fundraiser was described in the invitation email to be at "Lola and Congressman Ryan Zinke's Home" in Santa Barbara, CA.
- A 2014 article acknowledged Lola Zinke moved back to Santa Barbara for a time to take care of her sick mother.

## **PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES**

- Zinke reported \$144,828.07 in earned income.
- Zinke's personal investments were reported to be between \$501,005 and \$1,115,000.
- He listed between \$200,002 and \$500,000 in liabilities.
- He filed an amended 2014 disclosure that removed a number of items including over \$32,000 in earned income, an art & auto collection valued for \$150,000-\$350,000, and a truck loan for \$15,000-\$50,000.

## **POLITICAL CAREER**

- Zinke first ran for office in 2008 for the Montana State Senate. In 2012, he ran for Lieutenant Governor and lost the primary. Then in 2014 he ran for and was elected to Congress.

## **ATTENDANCE & EFFECTIVENESS**

- Zinke missed 2.2% of votes in Congress (about average).
- He was ranked 131st highest in the House for bills introduced.
- His leadership score was 87th highest in the House.
- The number of cosponsors on his bills ranked 149th highest in the House.
- He was ranked the 17th most conservative member of the House, in the most conservative 5%.
- His bills were in the lowest 50% of powerful cosponsors for House Freshmen – a measure of the likeliness of the bill to move forward.
- He was also in the lowest 50% of House Republicans for writing bipartisan bills, and the lowest 25% for joining bipartisan bills.
- Only one of Zinke's bills came to a committee vote in 2015, and none of his bills have become law.
- He received zero points for transparency.

## **PERKS OF OFFICE**

### **AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS:**

- Zinke received \$174,000 a year as a Member of Congress.
- He spent just under \$1 million on staff salaries in his first year in office.
- His House office spent over \$140,000 on travel.
- He took over \$22,000 in privately-funded travel, including a \$20,000 week-long trip to Israel and another to Las Vegas.
- He authorized two privately funded state trips – one to join him in Las Vegas and another a trip to Turkey, Bosnia, and Herzegovina.
- He spent over \$25,000 on franked mail.
- He spent over \$1.2 million in his House Office budget overall.

### **AS A STATE SENATOR:**

- He received \$15,371.01 in gross wages from 2009-2011.
- He also received nearly \$24,000 in legislative session per-diem payments.
- He was reimbursed \$1,500 for a MacBook Pro
- He attended a trip to Washington, DC at taxpayer expense.

## **POLITICS OF SELF-INTEREST**

- Zinke announced he would release an autobiography a month before the election.
- He was called out by a blogger for “fake” fundraising – wracking up massive totals, but spending so much on consultants little was actually left for the election. He spent 75% of the \$2.7 million in the off-year.
- He voted for and has been a vocal advocate for the Keystone XL Pipeline. He happens to have been served of the Board of Directors, had a consulting contract with, and holds stock in a company that specializes in energy pipeline technology.
- In fact, Zinke was reportedly “narrowly avoided a court martial” after he inappropriately used travel funds while in the military.
- He was endorsed by former Sen. Conrad Burns who CBS News called “tainted” for his ties to convicted former lobbyist Jack Abramoff.
- He asked city council to approve a pedestrian crosswalk near a property he owned.
- He sponsored a bill to shift the hours that microbrewery taprooms could serve their beer and then shortly after started trying to build a microbrewery with a taproom.
- **NOTE:** For more on Zinke’s politics of self-interest, please see the sections on Zinke’s PACs: Special Operations for America (SOFA) PAC and Supporting Electing American Leaders (SEAL) PAC.

### **PUT AMBITIONS BEFORE MONTANANS**

- Zinke’s rise in politics has always seemed marked by two main traits – ambition and self-interest. While he’s used campaign finance rules to enrich himself, his family, and friends, he has also used them to build what appear to be national networks of donors. His political contributions appear to be largely reinvested in more fundraising – a likely explanation being running for higher office.
- In 2015, after House Speaker John Boehner announced he would step down, Zinke announced he was considering a run for House Speaker. Given his less than a year in the House, this was surprising (MTPR noted it caught just about everyone “off-guard”) and off-putting (MSU Professor, Dave Parker: “I Thought That A Ryan Zinke Speaker Run Was A Bit Crazy.”).
- The *Billings Gazette*: “If Zinke really cared so much about the country, wouldn’t his first priority be to find someone who will work with the President?”
- After Zinke announced plans to release a book right before the election, radio guests discussed his “High Ambitions.”
- Zinke held a 2016 fundraiser at his “home” in Santa Barbara, CA. He moved back to Montana from California shortly before running for office.
- After all, he spent the first two months of his Montana campaign for Congress “touring around the country.”

### **SAY ANYTHING... TO GET ELECTED**

- Zinke took a hard-right turn sometime after his first run for office in 2008. It would seem he discovered, an ability to tap into hard-core conservative voters, to whom his veteran status probably held a special appeal.
- Zinke’s ‘change of heart’ has lead many Republicans to question his actual intentions. He’s been criticized for being too liberal, as a “phony” Republican, and accused of flip-flopping.
- However, much more recent examples show Zinke’s willingness to say anything to get elected – such as his reversal on equal pay.
- In 2008, Zinke was uncomfortable with the government interfering with a woman’s right to chose, but in 2015, he declared “I believe in the Sanctity of Life.”
- In his 2014 election, he claimed to support “equal pay for equal work.” However, in 2015 he voted against it and sought to block it from even getting a vote.

- He claimed to support the death penalty, and then voted twice to abolish it.
- He claimed to support funding for college affordability, and voted against \$15 million for the Montana University System.
- He said Common Core was a “Disaster” for Montana schools, but the Billings Gazette called him out for incorrectly claiming the federal government coerced Montana into the state-created educational standards.
- He wrote a letter to the President calling to address climate change, and then called for an end to the “war on fossil fuels.”
- He called himself a “Teddy Roosevelt Republican... I am about conservation”, but voted over and over again against protecting the environment.
- He claimed was “undecided” on background checks on gun sales and gun shows, stronger state restrictions on gun, but then stressed his support for the right to own guns and ammo.
- He supported gun purchase background checks, until he opposed them.
- He supported transferring public lands to the state, selling off those lands, but then he claimed to no longer support selling off public lands.
- He was “undecided” on REAL ID, but in 2016 he proposed the “Repeal REAL ID Act.”

## **TOO EXTREME**

- Zinke has run hard-right since going to Congress. He has refused to comment on whether he supported efforts to remove House Speaker John Boehner, who some extreme conservatives criticized as too moderate.
- Zinke called Steve Scalise a “Pipe Hitter” – someone who is willing to go to the extreme in order to get things accomplished.
- He called Hillary Clinton “the Antichrist” and said of the President “I’m a Christian so I try to not to hate anybody, do I think this president is a good man? The answer is no.”
- He receives personal tweets from the President of Halliburton.
- He praised Ben Carson as “very calming.”
- He suggested Americans with a mother who is a U.S. citizens should not be able to become President, citing Churchill.
- He supported a censure of the President (he pronounced “censor”), but hedged on impeachment.
- He was criticized for using canned phrases designed to scare people and insight false outrage.
- He was endorsed by former Vice President Dick Cheney.
- He claimed Newt Gingrich was a “senior advisor” to the campaign, then was forced to acknowledge he was not a paid advisor.
- He also bragged about Allen West’s support for his campaign.
- In 2014, Zinke called for the President’s impeachment.

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS FOR AMERICA PAC**

- SOFA is a Super PAC started by Zinke in June of 2012. Zinke left the PAC, transferring it to the consultant he made chief of staff after his 2014 victory. To date, the vast majority of the PAC’s expenditure were to aide Zinke, and to enrich himself, his family, and his team of consultants.
- SOFA has had repeated trouble with the FEC, being hit with three FEC complaints and nine Requests for Additional Information because reports submitted were incomplete. The organization also admitted to a 48-hour disclosure rule violation.
- He has made a mockery of campaign finance rules, which require Super PACs to operate independently from campaigns without “coordination.” However, he left the Super PAC less than a month before announcing his own campaign. He left the Super PAC to the consultant he would later make his chief of

staff. The campaign spent the majority of its Independent Expenditures supporting Zinke. The PAC and the campaign also paid the same consultant for research.

- Zinke used the PAC to enrich himself and his friends and family. From 2012 to 2015, SOFA spent just 9.8% of funds raised on Independent Expenditures, and given \$0 to other committees. Instead, the PAC has paid Zinke's consulting company, his daughter, his consultants and his later to be chief of staff.

## SEAL PAC

- Zinke's Leadership PAC has already faced similar issues as SOFA PAC.
- Despite having raised \$848,373 in a year, SEAL PAC spent most of its funds and even incurred debt, but only \$19,200 went to other candidates, or 2.2 percent.
- The vast majority of expenditures went to fundraising, nearly \$300,000.
- In just over a year, SEAL PAC received three Requests for Additional Information from the FEC.
- The leadership PAC has raised money off of Congressional Medals.

## ABORTION & WOMEN'S ISSUES

- **ANTI-CHOICE AFTER 2011:** Zinke has been stressing his pro-life credentials since about 2011, and voting accordingly. He voted to require life-saving care to an infant born alive during an abortion, stripping abortion funding from NIH & FDA, voted to prohibit abortions after 20 weeks, and opposed an exception for the health of the woman, to make the "Hyde Amendment" permanent law, parental notification for minors under 16, and no constitutional right to abortions. He even sponsored a bill to criminalize a criminal offense involving the death of an unborn child.
- **MODERATELY PRO-CHOICE BEFORE 2011:** Zinke claimed he was wary of government deciding for women on abortion, voted against calling "the protection of unborn life a compelling state interest," voted against defining a person at conception, claimed the decision was "the providence of God and family," and he supported abortion within the first trimester, and in cases of rape or incest, a danger to the woman.
- **PLANNED PARENTHOOD:** Zinke has voted repeatedly with the extreme wing of his part to defund Planned Parenthood, investigate the organization, and make it easier for states to cut off funding.
- **WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES:** Zinke voted against ensuring a bill would not prevent women from receiving health services, for repealing DC law banning contraceptive usage discrimination, against protecting women's medical privacy, and to repeal unisex insurance law provisions.
- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT:** Zinke voted against exempting federal protections against sexual and domestic abuse from added legal challenges.
- **EQUAL PAY:** In his 2014 campaign, Zinke claimed to support "equal pay for equal work," but in Congress he has voted against equal pay and twice to block the Paycheck Fairness Act.
- **WOMEN IN THE MILITARY:** Zinke cosponsored a bill to include women in the draft, as a ploy to scare people into opposing women in combat. The same tactic was used in the 1970s & 1980s as a scare tactic to block the Equal Rights Amendment.
- **WAR ON WOMEN:** Zinke had 0% NARAL rating, and a 100% Right for Life voting record. He voted to require written permission from a parent for a student to attend sex education classes.

## AGRICULTURE ISSUES

- **GMO LABELING:** He voted to override state laws and establish a voluntary national genetically engineered certification program, but news coverage made clear: "Zinke cosponsored and supported legislation that would prevent Americans from learning whether their food contains GMO ingredients." He did all this while claiming "Montanans have a right to know what is in the food they are eating."

- Zinke criticized the federal open-grazing plan for bison, declaring “heads will roll.”
- He opposed cutting crop insurance.
- He encouraged the USDA to specify that industrial hemp research programs were eligible for federal funds.
- He voted to repeal Country of Origin Labeling on meat.
- He voted for the Western Water & American Food Security Act, but against funding water reclamation & reuse projects.
- He voted against a resolution that encouraged Farm to School Programs. (Juneau was a leader on these programs, arguing they helped the economy, farmers, and encouraged healthy eating.)
- He voted in favor of legislation to stop the discouragement of horse slaughterhouses in Montana.

## **BUDGET ISSUES - FEDERAL**

- Zinke voted for the Omnibus Budget Agreement in 2015, citing the LWCF, visa reforms, funding our troops and lifting the ban on crude oil exports. However, one columnist wrote, Zinke “sold his conservative credentials for a mess of potage.”
- In September 2015, Zinke also voted for a short-term continuing resolution to prevent a government shutdown, but complained: “These short-term continuing resolutions are no way to run the government.”
- In April 2015, Zinke voted against the FY16 Republican Budget Conference Report, because of public land provisions.
- Zinke supported a balanced budget amendment.
- He supported the Ryan Budget in 2014, during the primary campaign, but criticized it as not “aggressive” enough and cuts “really aren’t deep enough.”
- He voted to require the Treasury Secretary report before Congress before the debt limit is reached.
- He opposed the budget deal in October 2015 because “restructuring Medicare... would punish rural healthcare” and cutting crop insurance. He said if Congress doesn’t pass a balanced budget, they should not get paid.
- He voted against raising the debt limit in October 2015.

## **BUDGET ISSUES - MONTANA**

- Zinke voted in favor of the 2011 biennium budget, in which 11 percent of the budget was funded by the federal stimulus funds.
- He voted in favor of the 2011 biennium budget, which used federal stimulus funds to replace some state funding for education.
- He voted in favor of the 2011 biennium budget, which cut \$84.52 million from the Governor’s proposal for K-12 education.
- He voted in favor of the 2011 biennium budget, which cut \$53.13 million from the Governor’s proposal for higher education.
- He voted in favor of the 2013 biennium budget that cut \$35 million from the Governor’s proposal for K-12 education.
- He voted in favor of the 2013 biennium budget that cut \$14.125 million from the Governor’s proposal for higher education.
- He voted in favor of the 2013 biennium budget that cut \$35.67 million from the Governor’s proposal for health and human services.
- He voted in favor of the 2013 biennium budget that rejected a previously negotiated pay plan for public employees, keeping salaries stagnant.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE & ELECTION LAW

- Zinke voted to block a Constitutional amendment to overturn the *Citizens United* Supreme Court ruling. He was criticized for “taking Super-PACs to a new extreme” and reaping benefits from a Super PAC he founded.
- He voted to limit the power of the House Ethics Committee to investigate its members.
- He voted to close voter registration the Friday before Election Day.
- He changed his vote on the districting law at the end of session, switching his vote against it, to a vote in favor.
- He opposed spending limits on state level political campaigns.
- He opposed term limits for state senators and representatives, but supported them for the governor.
- He supported requiring a “valid Montana ID for all elections.”

## CIVIL RIGHTS

- Zinke cosponsored a resolution disagreeing with the Supreme Court decision declaring state bans of same sex marriage unconstitutional. Previously, he signed a letter arguing state prohibition of same sex marriage was constitutional.
- He has argued “marriage is between one man and one woman.”
- He has voted against LGBT discrimination protections in federal contracts.
- He promised to talk to Montana VA officials about removing a pride flag and his staff admitted he had not and did not intend to do so.
- Zinke said he did not support granting spousal rights to same sex couples or the adoption of children by same-sex couples.
- BUT he claimed he was “undecided” on same sex civil unions.

## CONSUMER ISSUES

- Zinke voted to change the courts certain suits are heard in, against exempting cases when plaintiffs seek compensation due to a bad faith insurer or in connection with the sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor.
- He voted for allowing manufacturers to meet federal warranty requirements by posting the information on their website.
- He voted to require federal courts to impose sanctions on parties that file frivolous civil lawsuits.
- He voted to regulate commercial space ventures, but exempt passenger safety regulations for 10 years.
- He voted for mandating private sector input on federal agency rules, expanding judicial review and restrict the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s funding.
- He voted against exempting FDA consumer protections from greater regulatory review & legal challenges.
- He voted to “dramatically” restrict the government’s ability to enact new safety standards.
- He voted against sharpening penalties for consumer protection violations against the elderly and people with development disabilities.
- He voted against legislation that would require transparency among automobile insurers

## CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY

- Zinke was caught off guard in a tour of the Great Falls Police Department when he was told of a \$1.5 billion reduction in funding due to budget shortfalls from Congress, and it’s damage to law enforcement efforts.

- He voted for the \$51.4B Dept of Commerce & DOJ FY2016 Budget that included underfunding agencies and relaxing gun restrictions. He voted against an effort to provide additional funding for programs on sexual assault, violence against women, and missing and exploited children.
- He voted to increase FBI salaries and expenses by \$25 million.
- He opposed the nomination of Loretta Lynch for Attorney General, claiming she supported the President's "unconstitutional executive amnesty."
- He voted against a bill that would have prohibited texting while driving.
- He voted against a resolution that would have requested a study to determine ways to reduce childhood health trauma and its long term effects on children.
- He voted against legislation that would have classified an aggravated DUI as a misdemeanor.
- He voted against a bill that would have extended possible jail time for certain DUI offenses.
- He was one of eight Senators who voted against establishing a sobriety program in the Montana Department of Justice.
- He claimed to support the death penalty in 2008, but then voted twice to abolish it in 2009 and 2011.

## DEFENSE

- Zinke has continually held himself up as an expert on national defense, attacking administration decisions often in the press.
- Zinke supported cutting the DOD budget through hiring freezes and reforming the acquisitions process.
- He voted to authorize intelligence and intelligence-related appropriations for FY 2016.
- He voted against reducing our national nuclear security weapons activity by \$25 million.
- He voted against a budget plan that prohibited increased war funding to \$94 billion in FY 2016.
- Zinke was asked "When should America go to war?" He responded, "And, folks, lemme tell you, it is all the dang time."
- Zinke voted for the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, providing \$540 billion in defense funding.
- He voted to conduct NDAA House and Senate conference meetings behind closed doors.
- Amid the various version of the bill, Zinke voted against a number of good amendments, such as a 2.3% pay raise for troops (though he did vote for the final bill with a 1.3% raise) and continued pay in the case of a government shutdown, and \$5M for Army Medical Research.
- Zinke also voted for an early version of the NDAA that included a provision allowing concealed carry of firearms on military installations.

## EDUCATION

- Zinke received a 25% rating from the Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers in 2011, and a 73% in 2009.
- **VOUCHERS:** He voted for a D.C. private school voucher program that D.C. officials did not want. He has repeatedly touted being "pro-choice" on schools and supported "school choice" as an "option." He wanted to allow experimental charter schools in Montana, and supported allowing parents to use vouchers.
- **COMMON CORE:** Zinke implied common core was a "disaster" and voted to allow states to withdraw from the common core standards. He also said he disliked it but would support it if local school boards voted for it. However, the *Billings Gazette* specifically called Zinke out on being "incorrect in implying that the federal government coerced Montana to adopt Common Core. In fact, the Common Core effort is a state-led response to pleas from U.S. businesses and the Department of Defense to raise the bar on public education quality."

- **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:** Zinke opposed grants to expand preschool programs and opposed funding for child care and development. He even voted to allow public elementary schools to charge for preschool.
- **HIGHER EDUCATION:** Zinke supported slashing Pell grants by \$125 billion and restricting their eligibility. In 2008, he claimed to support state funding for college affordability, but he voted against \$15 million for the Montana University System and voted for a budget that increased tuition rates.
- **K-12:** He voted to replace NCLB with the ESEA, but he voted against: adding a STEM Gateways program for girls, minorities, and low-income students; against ensuring textbooks meet education standards; against school dropout prevention grants; and against early childhood education grants. He also criticized the “proficiency” of Montana schools in 2014. He opposed millions in increased education funding, voted for a state budget that cut \$12 million from K-12. Zinke said of a bill designed to redistribute funds between districts: “in the legislature, it is our job to equalize.” He also voted against raising the dropout age and to indefinitely postpone a bill that would evaluate educational achievement.
- **TEACHERS:** Zinke voted against providing students with qualified teaching aides and assistants; and against protecting teacher development funding for high-poverty areas. He implied that teachers’ laziness prevented them from using technology in the classroom
- Voted to indefinitely postpone a bill that would have evaluated educational achievement. He also said he wanted to model teacher pay after military pay and supported a merit pay system.

## ENERGY ISSUES

- Zinke has frequently been a proponent of the Keystone XL pipeline, drilling and other attempts to access oil and gas resources. He voted for the Keystone XL pipeline, and he voted against increasing pipeline fees and funding for pipeline safety. This is convenient given he was formerly on the board of an oil pipeline manufacturing company.
- He has also opposed energy efficiency improvements and incentives.
- He voted for lifting the 40-year crude oil ban and prohibiting increasing royalties paid to the U.S. for oil and gas produced on federal land.
- He voted for the \$36.1 billion FY 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.
- He voted for expedited permitting for natural gas pipeline projects, and voted against holding pipeline owners liable for explosions.
- He voted against increasing the tax credit for energy conserving expenditures.
- He indicated support for increased use of alternative energy, but he mocked domestic alternative energy efforts.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Zinke has repeatedly received failing scores, even one 3%, from environmental groups such as the League of Conservation Voters.
- He repeatedly voted against funding for the EPA and other environmental programs such as the Bureau of Land Management fund, inland oil spill programs, and vote to prevent allowing the EPA to update its ozone standards.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE:** He voted to delay EPA emissions rules for hazardous air pollutants, opposed carbon pollution rules, and sought to postpone them. He sought to prevent further research and understanding of climate change by voting to prohibit funding for the Energy Dept.’s climate models program (ironically, referred to as redundant by the amendment sponsor). In the state legislature, he voted to urge Congress to stop the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases and to indefinitely postpone a bill to evaluate climate change. ...However, in 2010, Zinke reportedly wrote a letter to the President calling on him to address climate change.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS:** Zinke voted to modify the environmental review process for federally-funded projects and permits for private projects with the effect of limiting the governments ability to review and regulate these projects – the RAPID Act.
- **EPA:** He claimed the EPA “broke the law by launching ‘covert propaganda’ campaigns in order to push its anti-Montana agenda.” He claimed the EPA’s Clean Power Plan would kill jobs in Montana, supported a plan to cut their budget by 9%, and voted for the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act.
- **FRACKING:** Zinke touted fracking and horizontal drilling as “absolute game changers” and opposed legislation banning fracking on public land. He said, “There hasn’t been an accident in fracking once” and declared it was safe. He frequently opposed rules or regulations for safe fracking. He even declared, God “gave us fracking, and that’s a good thing.”
- **SUPERFUND:** Zinke opposed a Superfund designation at Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site, favoring “a locally-driven solution.”
- Zinke called himself “a Teddy Roosevelt Republican... I am about conservation.”

## FINANCIAL ISSUES

- Zinke voted to stall “Operation Choke Point”, a DOJ program designed to hinder businesses suspected of committing consumer fraud.
- He voted to nullify the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s guidance on indirect auto lending.
- He voted against increasing the financing available to the Export-Import Bank by 5% each year for 4 years.
- An opinion-editorial noted that Zinke’s office seemed more interested in eliminating all banking regulations.
- He voted for consideration of a bill restricting the ability to regulate Wall Street’s banks’ overseas trades.
- He voted to weaken the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- He voted for a bill to deregulate Wall Street, and against a motion to prohibit individuals who finance terrorism from qualifying for regulatory exemptions.
- He voted against blocking benefits for those convicted of assisting terrorists.
- He voted to weaken Wall Street reform.

## FOREIGN POLICY

- Zinke has a history of fear mongering in foreign policy issues, citing his military experience to and inciting fear to gain national attention.
- Zinke said: “I don’t think you can fix Africa.”
- He urged the U.S. to deploy the navy “forward” to deter China’s aggression.
- **IRAN:** He was a vocal opponent and voted against the Iran Nuclear agreement, even putting forward a proposal to cut funding to the IAEA if they did not make all documents public, causing nuclear thought leaders to write an open letter warning of dire consequences. Zinke also frequently inflammatory language and grave threats to insight fear.
- **SYRIAN REFUGEES:** Zinke was such a vocal and inflammatory opponent of allowing Syrian refugees to enter the U.S. that he drew vocal criticism– including *Missoulian* and *Billings Gazette* editorials and comments from the Director of the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center –criticizing him for using “fear monger[ing] trying to capitalize on distrust of foreigners.”

## GUNS

- Zinke received an A- from the NRA, but in 2008 Zinke received a 42% rating. In 2008, he received a B from the Montana Shooting Sports Association.
- In recent years, Zinke has been an ardent support for the right to own guns and ammunition.
- He has been a vocal opponent of even reasonable gun restrictions, such as the President's executive orders on guns – calling them “unconstitutional” and part of a “tyrannical record.”
- He also voted against giving the Attorney General the authority to deny the sale or transfer of firearms to suspected terrorists. He even voted against debating the terrorist gun loophole.
- He repeatedly voted against attempts to even review the Denying Firearms & Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act.
- He voted to block consideration of background checks for gun purchases. In 2014, Zinke said the decision should be up to the Sheriff. In 2008, he was “undecided” on background checks at gun shows.
- He cosponsored a bill for the disposition within 60 days of an application of exemption from classification as armor piercing ammunition.
- He claimed to support local control, but he urged the Missoula City Council to withdraw a proposal that would expand regulations on private firearm transfers.
- He called for the military to be allowed to arm themselves at military facilities and recruitment centers.
- ...BUT in 2014, Zinke was criticized for waffling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment with guns in school and .50-caliber rifles. He also said he supported some gun control measures.
- ...BUT in the legislature, Zinke showed strong opposition to .50-caliber rifles. Gary Marbut of the Montana Shooting Sports Association noting the sudden change when he faced a Republican primary in 2014, “a sudden, election season conversion.” He was also criticized by a primary opponent for supporting gun control.
- ...BUT Zinke said in 2014: “I don't work for the NRA.” “I did vote against the NRA.”
- ...BUT the National Association for Gun Rights: “Zinke is on record voting AGAINST your gun rights.”
- ...BUT in 2008, Zinke supported background checks,
- ...BUT In 2008, Zinke believed that “heavy weapons and specialized military weapon systems should be banned for public use.”
- He said he believed that a federal ID system for weapons was no longer a good idea, because of “other database abuses”

## HEALTHCARE

- Zinke has been a vocal and unrelenting (even in the face of facts to the contrary) opponent of the Affordable Care Act, even saying: “let's abandon Obamacare. It's a train wreck.”; and “The ship is sinking.”
- The *Billings Gazette* noted as long as the ACA was in place “75,000 Montanans keep affordable care.”; and “...it's not a failure. It has effectively reduced the health insurance gap...”; and “[Zinke] hop off the repeal bandwagon and stop threatening Montanans' health coverage.” The paper also urged him to move on from his negative rhetoric, writing “except that it appears to be working – and working very well.” and “If that's failure, let's have more of it, Rep. Zinke.” The editorial concluded, “That's what so frustrating about Daines and Zinke. You can have a difference of opinion. But they seem to have a difference of facts.”
- He voted to prohibit the creation of a health insurance exchange under the Affordable Care Act and voted in favor of legislation that would prohibit Montana from administering the health insurance purchase requirements of the Affordable Care Act.
- He continued to criticize the law after the Supreme Court struck down a challenge to it. The *Billings Gazette* urged him to “move on” and noted “Remember: lawmakers who want to repeal the ACA would still have government-funded health coverage without it.”

- He voted to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- He voted against a resolution to request a committee to study health care, even though 19% of Montanans lacked health insurance.
- He voted in favor of legislation that would eliminate language stating that it was “unlawful discriminatory practice” to discriminate solely on the basis of sex.

## **IMMIGRATION & BORDER ISSUES**

- Zinke has been an ardent opponent of immigration, as well, frequently citing national security and terrorism concerns.
- He criticized U.S. policy as “nonsensical, it promotes people cheating,” and said he opposed amnesty, but supported earned citizenship over time.
- He has frequently arguing for building a fence on the southern border, but wanted the Montana border to continue to have 24-hour operation. He even argued the board needed to be secured before he would support immigration reform – citing fear of ISIS & al-Qaida.
- He voted to deport undocumented families and DREAMers, and said immigrants must speak English.
- He claimed an increasing number of illegal immigrants were crossing the northern border.
- He proposed the Repeal Real ID Act, but in 2008 he was undecided if Montana should participate in the program.
- He voted to block certain law enforcement grants from “sanctuary” state and local governments. The bill was labeled “The Donald Trump Act.” In the state Senate, he also voted to punish local governments if they did not enforce federal immigration laws.
- ...BUT he supported allowing undocumented immigrants to serve in the Armed Forces.
- ...BUT he supported work visas for undocumented immigrants.

## **LABOR & JOBS**

- Zinke received a 60% from the Montana AFL-CIO in 2011.
- He voted to liquidate the Federal Reserve’s surplus funds and redirect the money to the General Fund.
- He voted against prohibiting funding contractors who violated the Fair Labor Standards Act and against prohibiting VA contracts with employers who have violated labor laws.
- He voted to block the implementation of union election rules set by the National Labor Relations Board.
- He claimed Montana was 49<sup>th</sup> in wages, but opposed raising the federal minimum wage.
- He called for government to get out of business claiming it was “overreaching” and “unelected bureaucrats... inflicted about \$3.6 trillion of damage.”
- He criticized the successful auto-bailout, claiming “was General Motors really too big to fail?”
- He implied that he supported cutting state pensions.
- Zinke sponsored the Senate version of a Workers’ Compensation bill. He criticized rates as “too high.”
- He voted against a loan reimbursement program for registered nurses working in Montana state hospitals and prisons.
- He bemoaned the number of people on food stamps and supported increasing work requirements for welfare recipients.
- ...BUT he voted against allowing tips as credit to meet the minimum wage; supported job training for welfare recipients; low interest loans & tax credits for starting a business; funding for childcare for low-income workers; and funding job training programs.

## **MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES**

- Zinke voted against a motion to allow home buyers to see court remedy against predatory practices and to delay implementing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's rules for home buyers.
- He voted to bar HUD from enforcing a regulation combating discrimination in the housing market and he voted to bar funding for the private enforcement initiative of the Fair Housing Initiatives Program. He also voted to prevent the DOJ from enforcing disparate impact claims under the Fair Housing Act.
- He voted to roll back regulations created to prevent the bad lending practices that led to the 2008 financial crisis. He also voted to weaken Wall Street reform for mortgage lenders.
- He voted against preventing those convicted of mortgage fraud and predatory lenders from providing home loans.
- He supported raising taxes on working class families by \$2,000, while giving millionaires tax breaks.
- He supported giving tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas.

## **MILITARY & VETERANS**

- Zinke told veterans: "Don't be a victim." He also said "a lot of them [Veterans] complain about everything."
- He argued against lower enlistment standards.
- He said if the VA was not functioning competitively, veterans should be able to go out and get private care.
- He warned against creating a system when veterans are dependent on the federal government.
- He claimed only 3 people were fired as a result of the VA scandal.
- ...BUT he voted against prohibiting the VA Secretary from removing whistleblowers. In fact, he voted to expand the VA's ability to demote employees based on performance or misconduct.
- He voted to kill an amendment to increase spending levels in the VA and against \$15 million in additional funds for VA Health Administration Medical Services.
- He vehemently opposed women in combat policies, often making archaic arguments. He sponsored a bill to register women for the draft as a scare tactic – one also used by opponents of the Equal Rights amendment in the 1970s & 1980s. He said, "We have to be cognizant that the anatomy is different." A female veteran even wrote a public letter criticizing him for his remarks about women in combat being weak and a distraction.

## **NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES**

- Shortly after discovering he would be challenged for re-election by a Native American woman, Zinke posted on social media photos of tribal flags that appear to be recent additions.
- He has been a vocal critic of the President's "war on coal", citing the Crow Nation's economic troubles, and need to resort to "extensive furloughs." Zinke's Indian Coal Production Tax Credit passed the House.
- He voted to amend the National Labor Relations Act to exempt tribes & tribally-owned businesses.
- Zinke declared he would not "stand idly by as the Gateway Pacific Terminal becomes the next Keystone."
- He voted to reduce regulations on development on Indian lands to expedite energy development.
- He sponsored legislation to exempt tribes and tribal employers from Obamacare's employer mandate. He would also repeal the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.
- ...BUT an official contended that Zinke made disparaging remarks about Indians. In 2014, he said that "nowhere is more apparent," the dependence on government, than "Indian reservations."
- He supported a plan to slash food stamp benefits.
- He supported the government shutdown that hurt Montana tribes, and opposed replacing the devastating sequester cuts that cut funding for schools and Indian health services.

- He even opposed funding for Violence Against Women Programs for Indian women.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

- **COAL & MINING:** Zinke has repeatedly side with coal and mining interests with little regard for environmental or other concerns. He proposed blocking the Department of the Interior from increasing public royalties paid by coal, oil and gas companies for taking profit from public lands.
- **DISASTER AID:** He voted against increasing funding for inland oil spill programs by more than \$5 million, and against preserving legal recourse to catastrophic event salvage and reforestation projects. He even voted against storm impact prevention and FEMA funding.
- **FISHING:** He voted to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act. He voted to remove a timeframe allowing for the rebuilding of depleted fishing stocks. He voted against requiring polluters to pay for clean up of toxics or oil that would harm fishing communities.
- **FOREST MANAGEMENT:** He supported the Forest Service limiting its analysis of logging projects and allowing some to skip environmental review all together. He introduced a bill to implement reforms to tackle litigation and wildfire concerns.” Zinke’s timber reform passed the House, but conservations considered it a top-down approach that did not recognize Montana’s diverse interests.
- **LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND:** He said the fund was “in need of updates to ensure more money in fact goes toward projects.” But earlier, he said the “program isn’t perfect, but that he supports a temporary reauthorization.”
- **PUBLIC LANDS:** He has stressed protecting mixed use for public lands. He voted to lift restrictions on kayaks, rafts & other “hand-propelled” vessels on hundreds of miles of rivers and streams in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. He was previously attacked for signing a pledge supporting the transfer of public lands to the state, and has since stated that is no longer his position. He supported a “land grab” bill that opened unprecedented development on public lands. He supported a plan to sell off our public lands, and opposed the North Fork Protection Act.
- **WATER RESOURCES:** He voted against requiring increased disclosure on groundwater monitoring and against requiring inactive hazardous waste sites to follow groundwater monitoring standards. He even voted to undermine the Clean Water Act.
- **WILDLIFE & SPECIES PROTECTION:** He voted to allow voluntary vegetation management in certain areas without liability for wildlife damage. He voted to expedite environmental reviews of logging and underbrush removal projects on tribal and federal lands, despite an OMB warning that the bill would undermine public trust in forest management projects. He voted to destroy the Habitat Program, privatizing and commercializing wildlife and hunting opportunities.

## REGULATORY REFORM

- Zinke voted against ensuring enforcement of laws protecting human health, the environment and public safety in a bill allowing for the export of crude oil
- He voted against amendments to the RAPID Act, a bill publicized as cutting regulation, which would bar the act from affecting permitting projects that could be terror targets or critical infrastructure, and against an amendment to state that nothing in the act should limit agencies from public comment or participation in decision making.
- He voted to require federal courts to impose monetary sanctions on those that file frivolous lawsuits.
- He also voted to require congressional approval of all executive agency “major rules.”
- He voted to require regulations and rule changes in the Affordable Care Act must be subject to congressional approval. He voted against amending the bill to provide exemption for the requirement rules that would increase jobs or govern pipelines carrying natural gas and hazardous materials or public health and safety regulations, etc.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- He voted for new restrictions for the National Science Foundation grants, including worthiness of federal funding and “national interest.”
- He voted for passage of the \$51.4 billion FY 2016 Dept of Commerce and Justice Budget, which included funding for NASA and NIST.
- **CYBER SECURITY:** He voted to authorize the FY 2016-16 U.S. Government Intelligence Agencies and Intelligence-Related Activities budget. He voted for the voluntary sharing of cyber threat information between the private sector and the federal government. He voted for the National CyberSecurity Advancement Act.
- **RESEARCH:** He voted to make the NIH and Cures Innovation Fund discretionary. He voted for \$32.9 billion for scientific research at the NSF, NIST, Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Energy Department. He voted to cut scientific and climate change research.

## SENIORS

- Zinke voted against ensuring companies harming seniors financially not receive help from the Federal Reserve.
- When Zinke was asked about cuts to or privatization of Social Security and Medicare, he said cutting defense spending and taxing the richest 1% would not fix the growing debt.
- He even voted to jeopardize Social Security, but supporting a House Rules package that contained a provision that could threaten benefit cuts to Social Security.
- He voted against blocking a Medicare voucher program.
- He voted against exempting certain “major rules” from Congressional approval if they protect Social Security and Medicare benefits for Seniors.
- He was attacked in an ad for supporting Medicare cuts and helping corporations and billionaires.
- Finally, he supported the Ryan Budget, even saying that it was not “aggressive” enough. The proposal included a Medicare voucher system that would increase out of pocket costs for seniors by 50%; would increase the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 67; cut billions from Medicare benefits; and increase prescription drug costs by up to \$1,700.

## TAXES

- Zinke signed the Americans for Tax Reform anti-tax pledge.
- He voted to renew and extend individual and business tax provisions for the 2015 tax year.
- He cosponsored a bill impeaching the Commissioner of the IRS.
- He urged the IRS Commissioner to investigate the Clinton Foundation tax status.
- He voted against disqualifying those convicted of evading the Gift tax or Estate Tax from the Death Tax Repeal Act’s provisions. He voted to repeal the federal estate tax.
- He announced support for the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.
- He voted to protect tax deductions for executive bonuses exceeding \$1 million.
- Accused by the Montanans for Fair Taxation PAC of making a “backroom deal with Democrats to raise taxes and redistribute funds from our rural schools.”

## TERRORISM & NATIONAL SECURITY

- Zinke voted to require the DHS Secretary to report to Congress on state and local terrorism preparedness.
- He claimed that the President was concealing the number of Syrian refugees allowed into the U.S.

- He ignored a request for comment on the Reauthorization of the Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.
- He claimed “the world’s not going to shut down” if the NSA bulk surveillance program was allowed to expire. He also said, “My view is that metadata is fine until you get to a name. The moment you get to a name, you better have a warrant and judge at that point.” But he voted to prohibit the NSA’s bulk collection of telephone metadata and ability to collect other bulk data.
- He voted against a bill that would fund the Department of Homeland Security and keep the department running despite a near shutdown.
- He supported and even encouraged drones in Montana, attempting to make the state a hub for drone development.
- He has been an adamant opponent of the President’s efforts to close the detainee facility in Guantanamo Bay. He claimed: “I have sent terrorists to Guantanamo Bay – just to have this President release them.” He has also repeatedly supported legislative maneuvers to make it difficult for the President to close the facility.
- He has repeatedly argued for loosening the Rules of Engagement in the fight against ISIS, but opposed more troops in Iraq or Syria. He argued for supporting and arming the Kurds and Sunnis.

## **TRADE**

- Zinke voted repeatedly to block the Reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.
- He voted against reauthorizing Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and extending the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) for Haiti. But he voted to adopt a rule that would extend TAA programs and the AGOA.
- He voted to grant the President Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), but voted against TAA programs and previously opposed fast-track authority for the President.
- He supported the Trans-Pacific Partnership, saying it was “absolutely critical to Montana’s agriculture industry.”

## **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Zinke voted for a short-term Highway Funding Extension – a 3 month ‘patch.’ He also voted to block consideration of a long-term Transportation Bill.
- He cosponsored the ‘Pilot’s Bill of Rights 2.’
- He voted against funding a \$750 million for a Transportation Department grant program for deployment of train control technologies, which could have prevented an Amtrak collision. But later, he supported the extension of the Positive Train Control Safety System.
- Zinke called Amtrak a “bike path to nowhere.”
- He voted for the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill for \$108.7 billion in fiscal year 2016.

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

- Zinke raised nearly \$7.5 million and spent over \$6.6 million in his federal campaigns and through his leadership PAC, SEAL PAC.
- 86% of Zinke’s federal contributions are from individuals, with 10% from PACs, 1% self-funded, and 4% labeled as “other.”
- In 2014, Zinke outraised his opponent by over \$3 million.
- Zinke’s top industry of federal contributors (in order) are: retired (\$666,993), republican/conservative (\$334,938), real estate (\$303,273), oil & gas (\$266,451), securities & investments (\$173,800), and lawyers/law firms (\$173,666).

- Zinke's top sectors of federal contributors (in order) are: Other (\$712,197); Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (\$633,068); Ideological/Single-Issue (\$601,288); and Energy & Natural Resources (\$369,291).
- Zinke's top federal contributors (in order) are: Fidelity National Financial (\$145,723); Oasis Petroleum (\$27,600); Fidelity National Information Services (\$24,300); Chicago Title Insurance (\$20,400); and Halliburton Co (\$20,400).
- 46.8% of Zinke's lifetime contributions have come from outside Montana, or \$2.4 million. Zinke's top federal contributors by metro area (in order) are: Billings, Houston, Dallas, Jacksonville, Los Angeles-Long Beach, New York, San Francisco, Missoula, Washington (DC), Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc.

## ZINKE'S BUSINESSES

- ✓ **Continental Divide International, LLC:** Zinke's primary business was formed in 2005 with his immediate family as the officers and his primary residence listed as the company's address. The company was referred to as a "business development consulting company" and as a "property management" company. Zinke's super PAC, SOFA PAC, paid the firm nearly \$40,000 in 2012 and 2013, yet Zinke denied ever "taking a paycheck." He also repeatedly changed the deed of his residence to being under the business name, then his own, then the business again. He did the same with other properties. Possible reasons for this are unclear. After getting elected, Zinke told the press he would move to an "advisory" role and let his family run the business.
- ✓ **Save the World Air (STWA):** The oil pipeline company began as a consulting client for Zinke, with Zinke arranging meetings and introductions, then he joined the board of directors in 2012 making him entitled to receive fees and stock options, and he reported \$85,000 in income from the company in 2013. In 2013, the company was listed under a "bankruptcy warning" and during Zinke's tenure had a history of questionable tax payment issues. In 2015, Zinke left the board after being sworn in to Congress.
- ✓ **On Point Montana, LLC:** The 2009 Zinke company based in his personal residence, and was listed as a "consulting business." In 2013, Zinke reported \$52,000 in income.
- ✓ **Double Tap, LLC:** The Zinke business was formed in 2011 as a MicroBrewery with Jamie Zinke, his sister. However, in 2013, the company was involuntarily dissolved after opposition from neighbors led them to pull the application.

### Continental Divide International, LLC

#### Business History & Description

##### 2005: Continental Divide International, LLC Formed

On March 22, 2005, Continental Divide International, LLC was organized as a business in Montana with the principal place of business registered at 409 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Whitefish, MT. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

##### Zinke's Primary Residence Is Still Listed as the Company's Address

According to the Montana Secretary of State website, Continental Divide International, LLC has its principal address at 409 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Whitefish, MT – Zinke's home address. [Montana Secretary of State website, accessed [3/07/16](#)]

##### Zinke Was CEO of the "Business Development Consulting Company"

In 2014, the *Missoulian* reported, "CEO of Continental Divide International, a business development consulting company." [Missoulian, 9/28/14]

### **2010 Business Disclosure Statement: “Property Management”**

On his 2010 Business Disclosure Statement for State Senate, Zinke called Continental Divide International a “property management” business. [Business Disclosure Statement, 12/16/10]

### **Continental Divide Internationals’ Officers**

*NOTE: All of the individuals listed as officers are members of Zinke’s immediate family.*

**Name: DETLEFSEN, JENNIFER (Daughter)**

Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER

Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER

**Name: ZINKE, KONRAD (Son)**

Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER

Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER

**Name: ZINKE, LOLITA C (Wife)**

Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER

Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER

**Name: ZINKE, RYAN K (Self)**

Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER

Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER

**Name: ZINKE, WOLFGANG (Son)**

Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER

Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER [Lexis-Nexis Business Records, Montana Secretary of State]

### **2012 Business Disclosure Statement: “Consulting” Business**

On his 2012 Business Disclosure Statement for Lieutenant Governor, Zinke called Continental Divide International a “consulting” business. [Business Disclosure Statement, 1/18/12]

### **March 2014: Principal of Company with His Wife**

According to a March 2014 search with the Montana Secretary of State, Zinke was a principal of Continental Divide International, LLC with his wife Lolita. Zinke’s address on the form was located at 409 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Whitefish, MT, while his wife’s address was located at 1127 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Imperial Beach, CA. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 3/08/14]

### **April 2014: Wife’s Address Changed to Montana, Children Added**

In an April 2014 search, Zinke’s wife’s address was changed from Imperial Beach, California to 409 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Whitefish, MT. Zinke’s children, Wolfgang, Konrad, and Jennifer Detlefsen were also added as principals of the business. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

### **November 2014: Zinke Said His Family Would Continue Running the Business & He Would Have an “Advisory” Role**

In November 2014, shortly after being elected, *Hungry Horse News* reported, “Zinke said his family will continue to operate Continental Divide International, a consulting business he has been involved with. His role will be advisory from here on out, he said. His family also has some property in the Flathead they will manage while he’s in Washington, D.C.” [Hungry Horse News, 11/12/14]

### Zinke's PAC Paid His Firm for "Fundraising Work"

In February 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, "FEC filings show SOFA PAC [Special Operations for America PAC] raised \$182,378 [in 2012] and spent all but \$2,357 of it by year's end. Romney's run had ended, but SOFA PAC's run was just beginning. Zinke began fundraising across the nation through direct-mail campaigns, advertising and events. His consulting firm, Continental Divide International, received thousands of dollars from the PAC for its fundraising work." [Great Falls Tribune, 2/17/14]

*NOTE: See the "SOFA's Finances" section relating to the SOFA PAC for more detail.*

### His Company Paid by His PAC Nearly \$40,000

### 2012: SOFA Paid Zinke's Consulting Firm \$28,253

In 2012, Special Operations for America (SOFA) PAC paid Zinke and his wife's consulting firm, Continental Divide International, LLC \$28,253.

DATE	PAYEE	PURPOSE	STATE	AMOUNT
12/10/12	Continental Divide International		MT	\$5,000
7/30/12	Continental Divide International	Fundraising Consulting	MT	\$5,493
8/06/12	Continental Divide International	Fundraising Consulting	MT	\$2,546
8/27/12	Continental Divide International	Fundraising Consulting	MT	\$2,452
9/04/12	Continental Divide International	Fundraising Consulting	MT	\$4,324
10/09/12	Continental Divide International	Ryan Zinke—RNC Tampa/Las Vegas and Dallas	MT	\$2,777
10/15/12	Continental Divide International	Ryan Zinke—San Antonio, CPAC Denver	MT	\$2,625
11/26/12	Continental Divide International	Expense Reimbursement	MT	\$3,036
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$28,253</b>

[Federal Elections Commission, accessed 5/01/14]

### 2013-2014: SOFA Paid Zinke's Consulting Firm \$11,609

In 2013, SOFA paid Zinke and his wife's consulting firm, Continental Divide International, LLC \$6,500 for "strategy consulting" and \$5,109 for travel reimbursement.

DATE	PAYEE	PURPOSE	STATE	AMOUNT
1/24/13	Continental Divide Int LLC	Strategy Consulting	MT	\$5,000
3/21/13	Continental Divide Int LLC	Strategy Consulting	MT	\$1,500
8/05/13	Continental Divide Int LLC	Strategy Consulting	MT	\$5,109
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$11,609</b>

[Federal Election Commission, 5/01/14]

### FLASHBACK: Zinke: "I am Not Taking a Paycheck"

"The unfortunate part of politics, our voice is in a relationship to how much money we have. I am not taking a paycheck. I am doing this for God and country, but we are going to be very, careful in our deliver of message. We want to make sure what we say is well documented and we don't hit below the belt. I don't dislike the president personally. I dislike his policies as commander chief and as president," Zinke said. [Fox Hannity, 7/26/12]

### **2013: Zinke Reported \$40,000 in Income from the Business**

In 2014, the *Whitefish Pilot* reported that Zinke included \$40,000 in income from Continental Divide International as CEO during 2013. [Whitefish Pilot, 7/22/14]

### **2012 Election Cycle: Only Spent 3.8% of Contributions on IEs**

In the 2012 election cycle, SOFA raised \$182,378 but only spent \$7,000 on independent expenditures and \$0 on contributions to committees, resulting in 3.8 percent of contributions being used for independent expenditures. [Federal Election Commission, accessed 5/22/14]

### **March 2014: Only Spent 12.9% of Contributions on IEs**

From January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014, SOFA raised \$1,950,094 but only spent \$251,239 on independent expenditures and \$0 on contributions to committees, resulting in 12.9 percent of contributions being used for independent expenditures. [Federal Election Commission, accessed 5/22/14]

### **July 2012 Zinke: Picked Super PAC for SOFA Since “You Can Trace Every Penny”**

In July 2012, Zinke said that they decided to use a Super PAC since “you can trace every penny.” Zinke said, “The reason we picked a Super PAC over other funding vehicles is that with a Super PAC, you can trace every penny.” [Missoula Independent, 7/26/12]

### **Zinke: “Every Dollar that Comes in Is Accountable”**

Zinke said, “We’re a super PAC and we designed ourselves to be fully transparent. Every dollar that comes in is accountable. -The other thing that separates us, to a degree, is that we make comments on issues that are documented, that are supportable and we’re very, very careful on the message to make sure that we’re above the waterline. We’re not a ‘Swift Boat’ organization. We don’t make it personal. We make sure that what we represent is factual to the best of our ability and we’re shaping what I think is a compelling argument about this administration.” [Newsmax, 8/27/12]

### **2014: Two Advocacy Groups Filed a Complaint with FEC**

In March 2014, two based advocacy groups, the Campaign Legal Center and Democracy 21, who advocate for reducing the influence of money in politics, filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission against SOFA for illegal coordination. The groups alleged that television advertisements by SOFA appear to have photographs from the campaign. Campaign Legal Center senior counsel, Paul Ryan said, “If so, this is a clear violation of federal law that prohibits super PACS from republishing candidate campaign materials. This is just another example of the myth of the independence between outside groups like SOFA and the candidates they support.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 3/06/14]

## **Principal Residence Switched to Business Name & Then Back, Repeatedly**

### **Zinke Repeatedly Switched the Name on the Deed to His Primary Residence, Using Continental Divide International (Twice) - 409 W 2nd Street, Whitefish, MT 59937**

#### **July 2009: Deed of Trust for \$204,800**

On July 10, 2009, Zinke and his wife entered into a deed of trust with Mann Mortgage, LLC as the lender, and Alliance Title and Escrow Co, as the trustee. The Zinkes owed Mann Mortgage \$204,800, plus interest, to be paid in full by August 1, 2039. [Deed of Trust, 200900020636, 7/10/00]

#### **December 2009: Transferred Property to Continental Divide International, LLC (Their Company)**

On December 29, 2009, the Zinkes transferred the property to their company, Continental Divide International, LLC. [Warranty Deed, 200900035731, 12/29/09]

**November 2010: Transferred Property Back into Their Names**

On November 18, 2008, the property was transferred from Continental Divide International, LLC into Zinke and his wife's name. [Quitclaim Deed, 2010000026953, 11/18/10]

**January 2011: Transferred Property to Continental Divide Inns, LLC (Their Company)**

On January 21, 2011, the Zinkes transferred the property to their company, Continental Divide Inns, LLC. [Quitclaim Deed, 201100002471, 1/21/11]

**February 2013: Transferred Property Back into Own Names**

On February 22, 2013, the Zinkes transferred the property into their names. [Quitclaim Deed, 201300004625, 2/22/13]

**December 2013: Transferred Property to Continental Divide International, LLC (Their Company)**

On December 23, 2013, the Zinkes transferred the property to their company, Continental Divide International, LLC. [Quitclaim Deed 201300032152, 12/23/13]

**...& Did the Same with Other Properties He Owned****415 W 2nd Street, Whitefish, MT 59937****March 2005: Transferred Property to Company**

On March 1, 2005, Zinke and his wife transferred their property to their company, Continental Divide Inns, LLC. [Quitclaim Deed, 200512308030, 3/01/05]

**November 2010: Transferred Property into Their Names**

On November 18, 2008, the property was transferred from Continental Divide Inns, LLC into Zinke and his wife's name. [Quitclaim Deed, 2010000026953, 11/18/10]

**January 2011: Deed of Trust for \$198,750**

On January 2, 2011, the Zinkes entered into a deed of trust with Mann Mortgage, LLC as the lender, and Alliance Title and Escrow Corporation as the trustee. The Zinkes owed Mann Mortgage \$198,750, plus interest, to be paid in full by January 1, 2041. [Deed of Trust, 201100000845, 1/02/11]

**December 2011: Transferred Property to Company**

On December 21, 2011, the Zinkes transferred the property to their company, Continental Divide Inns, LLC. [Quitclaim Deed, 201100026584, 12/21/11]

**December 2013: Transferred Property to Other Company**

On December 23, 2013, the property was transferred to their company, Continental Divide International, LLC. [Quitclaim Deed, 20140000046, 12/23/13]

**410 W 3rd Street, Whitefish, MT 59937****April 2009: Signed Deed of Trust, \$198,336 Loan**

On April 1, 2009, Zinke and his wife signed a Deed of Trust with Mann Mortgage, LLC as the lender and Alliance Title and Escrow Corporation as the trustee. Zinke and his wife owed Mann Mortgage \$198,336 plus interest, which had to be paid in full by April 1, 2039. [Deed of Trust, 200900009726, 4/01/09]

**December 2009: Sold Property to his Company, Continental Divide International**

On December 31, 2009, Zinke and his wife sold the property, by way of a warranty deed, to their company, Continental Divide International. [Warranty Deed, 200900035729, 12/29/09]

**March 2013: Signed Deed of Trust, \$187,317 Loan**

On March 22, 2013, Zinke and his wife signed a Deed of Trust with Mann Mortgage, LLC as the lender and Alliance Title and Escrow Corporation as the trustee. Zinke and his wife owed Mann Mortgage \$187,317 plus interest, which had to be paid in full by April 1, 2039. [Deed of Trust, 201300007374, 3/22/13]

**May 2013: Substituted Trustee**

On May 6, 2013, the trustee of the title was changed to ReconTrust Company. [Substitution of Trustee, 201300011528, 5/06/13]

**February 2013: Transferred Property into Their Names**

On February 22, 2013, Zinke and his wife transferred the property back into their names. [Quitclaim Deed, 201300004626, 2/22/13]

**December 2013: Transferred Property Back to Continental Divide International**

On December 26, 2013, Zinke and his wife transferred the property back to Continental Divide International.

**430 Antelope Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937 (Happy Valley Lots)****January 2007: His Sister Conveyed Zinke Two Lots from an Estate**

On January 1, 2007, Jamie Zinke, acting as a representative of the estate of Jean Harlow Petersen, conveyed Lot 556 and Lot 557 of the Happy Valley Homesites to Zinke. [Deed of Distribution, 1/01/07, 200700210020, 1/01/09]

**July 2007: Ryan & Randy Zinke Quit Claim Property Unto to Ryan & Lolita Zinke**

On July 16, 2007, Ryan and Randy Zinke quit claimed the property unto Ryan and Lolita Zinke. [Quitclaim Deed, 200700029857, 7/16/07]

**December 2009: Transferred Deed to His Company, Continental Divide International**

On December 29, 2009, Zinke and his wife transferred the two Happy Valley Homesites to their company, Continental Divide International. [Warranty Deed, 200900035730, 12/29/09]

**July 2013: Sold Property to Terrie Dirk Meyer and Sylvia Meyer**

On July 22, 2013, Continental Divide International sold the property to Terrie Dirk Meyer and Sylvia Meyer. [Warranty Deed, 201300017803, 7/22/13]

**Save the World Air (STWA)****Business History & Description****2012: Zinke's Clients Included Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, and Unmanned Systems Inc**

According to an August 2012 article in *Marketwire*, Zinke was the CEO of two business development firms that specialize in advanced technology with clients that included Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, Sierra Nevada, Unmanned Systems INC, and Katmai. [Marketwire, 4/18/12]

### **Arranged Meeting for STWA at the 2012 Montana Energy Conference**

At the 2012 Montana Energy Conference, Zinke arranged meetings and introductions for Save the World Air, STWA. The company “develops and commercializes energy efficiency technologies that assist in meeting increasing global energy demands, improving the economics of oil extraction and transport, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.” Zinke said, “Advances in drilling technology and good old entrepreneurship have been the driving forces behind the Bakken oil boom. Given that we build transportation systems and increase domestic refining capability, America could wean itself from foreign oil within a few short years. I am confident that STWA’s pipeline technology will be a major player in reaching America’s goal of energy independence.” [Marketwire, 4/18/12; Market News Publishing, 12/14/12]

### **Zinke: STWA’s “Technology is a Winner” with Oil Pipeline Transport Technology**

After STWA announced it was in proposal talks with multiple companies, Zinke expressed his faith in STWA’s technology. Zinke said, “I am excited about the prospect of rapidly moving towards energy independence in North America. By increasing efficiency and making it possible to move more product through existing pipelines, STWA’s AOT(TM) Enhanced Oil Transport technology will be instrumental in reaching that goal [...] It is clear from the results of U.S. Department of energy testing that STWA’s AOT(TM) technology is a winner. AOT(TM) is a game changer in the oil pipeline industry. STWA’s AOT(TM) technology is a win-win for the sectors of oil exploration, pipeline transportation, and refining. Anytime you can increase pipeline capability and efficiency without using costly additives or diluents, everyone benefits.” [Market News Publishing, 10/02/12]

### **December 2012: Joined Board of Directors**

In December 2012, Zinke joined STWA’s boards of directors. Zinke said, “It’s a great honor to join this dedicated team of individuals in moving AOT(TM) forward. I am confident that the commercialization of STWA’s technology will hold great importance in our national mission of North America being energy independent. The fact that STWA technology will make America both more competitive and more efficient is exciting. I would like to thank the Board of Directors, the STWA team and the Company’s shareholders for this opportunity.” [Market News Publishing, 12/14/12]

### **December 2012: Entitled to Receive Fees, Stock Options from STWA**

In December 2012, *US Fed News*, reported that Zinke would be “entitled to receive fees, stock options, warrants or stocks” from STWA. Further, Zinke’s company, Continental Divide, entered into a one year independent contractor agreement with monthly compensation of \$5,000. [US Fed News, 12/17/12]

### **2013: Zinke Travelled to Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana and Kansas**

On October 29, 2013, *Market News Publishing* said that Zinke had travelled to STWA President to Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana and Kansas. Zinke said, “It has been a great honor to work with the dedicated team at STWA and witness firsthand the development and commercialization of their Applied Oil Technology (AOT(TM)) systems. STWA’s oil pipeline flow efficiency technology is capable of helping alleviate North America’s critical pipeline capacity challenges and supports the national imperative of moving completely away from oil imports from nations that are prone to political instability and are oftentimes hostile towards American interests.” [Market News Publishing, 10/29/13]

### **2013: Zinke Reported \$85,000 in Income from the Business**

In 2014, the *Whitefish Pilot* reported that Zinke included \$85,000 in income from STWA as a director of the “energy-related company” during 2013. The *AP* described his role with the company: “as a director for STWA, a Santa Barbara, California, company that develops and sells commercial flow assurance solutions designed to benefit the global energy industry.” [Whitefish Pilot, 7/22/14; AP, 7/17/14]

### **2013: STWA Was Listed Under a “Bankruptcy Warning”**

In 2013, *The Deal Pipeline* reported, “Weinberg & Co. PA expressed substantial doubt about Save The World Air Inc.’s ability to continue as a going concern, pointing to recurring operating losses and negative operating cash flows since inception, and the company has financed its working capital requirements through the recurring sale of its convertible notes and equity securities.” [The Deal Pipeline, 3/26/13]

*NOTE: No bankruptcy filings were found.*

### **2014: STWA Has Never Participated in California Energy Commission’s Work**

According to a May 7, 2014 Freedom for Information Act response, Save the World Air Inc has never participated in the California Energy Commission’s efficiency work nor received any grants or contracts from the Commission. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

#### **No Staff Person Had Ever Heard of Save the World Air, Inc**

According to a May 7, 2014 Freedom for Information Act response, the public office records holder wrote that he “was not able to identify a staff person who even has heard of Save The World Air, Inc.” [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

### **July 2013: Acquired 22,936 Shares of SWTA Stock**

On July 3, 2013, Zinke acquired 22,936 shares of STWA stock. On that date, STWA closed at \$1.09. [US Fed News, 7/23/13; NASDAQ, accessed [4/23/14](#)]

### **Zinke Left The Board Of Directors Of Save The World Air, Inc, A Santa-Barbara Based Developer Of Integrated Technology Solutions For The Energy Industry**

“Save The World Air, Inc, a developer of integrated technology solutions for the energy industry, today issued the following letter to shareholders: Strengthened our Board of Directors by appointing Mr. Thomas A. Bundros to serve as a Director in January 2015. Additionally, while it saddened me personally to see Ryan Zinke leave our Board, we were thrilled to announce that he was elected to serve our nation in the U.S. House of Representatives.” [Save the World Air, Letter to Stakeholders, [5/8/15](#)]

## **STWA’s Tax Problems**

### **Federal Tax Lien for \$30,000 Filed Against Save the World Air, Then Withdrawn with “Filed in Error”**

In 2013, the Internal Revenue Service filed a federal tax lien against Save the World Air (PO Box 549 Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0549). The lien was filed in California on April 2, 2013. However, a lien release was filed on 6/11/13, listing the first lien as “filed in error-fed tax lien.” [Santa Barbara County Court, Federal Tax Lien, 201300022419, 4/02/13; 20130038988, 6/11/13]

### **State Tax Lien Was Filed Against STWA in 2014**

In 2014, the Employment Development Department of California filed a state tax lien for Save The World Air, Inc. (735 State St Ste 500 Santa Barbara, CA 93101-5554). The status was listed as “unlapsed” and the filing type as “termination.” [California Judgment and Lien Filings, 14733466290, 10/22/14]

### **5 County Tax Liens Were Filed Against STWA with Releases all Filed the Same Day as the Original Filing**

*NOTE: All of these issues pre-date Zinke’s tenure with the company, which appeared to begin in 2012.*

2/06/09: A County of Santa Clara tax lien and tax lien release were both filed for **\$4,498** from Save the World Air, Inc. [California Judgment and Lien Filings, 20124662, 2/06/09; 20488778, 2/06/09]

2/06/09: A County of Santa Clara tax lien and tax lien release were both filed for **\$6,740** from Save the World Air, Inc. [California Judgment and Lien Filings, 20124663, 2/06/09; 20628797, 2/06/09]

2/06/09: A County of Santa Clara tax lien and tax lien release were both filed for **\$5,521** from Save the World Air, Inc. [California Judgment and Lien Filings, 20124671, 2/06/09; 20696753, 2/06/09]

11/06/09: A County of Santa Clara tax lien and tax lien release were both filed for **\$4,808** from Save the World Air, Inc. [California Judgment and Lien Filings, 20498196, 11/06/09; 20696752, 11/06/09]

11/08/10: A County of Santa Clara tax lien and tax lien release were both filed for **\$5,521** from Save the World Air, Inc. [California Judgment and Lien Filings, 20948055, 11/08/10; 21045399, 11/08/10]

## **On Point Montana, LLC**

### **2009: On Point Montana, LLC Formed**

On December 7, 2009, On Point Montana, LLC was formed as a business in Montana with the principal place of business registered at 409 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Whitefish, MT. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

### **2012 Business Disclosure Statement: Consulting Business**

On his 2012 Business Disclosure Statement for Lieutenant Governor, Zinke called his On Point Montana a “consulting business.” [Business Disclosure Statement, 1/18/12]

#### **Principal with Tom Boyle**

According to an April 2014 search, Zinke was a principal of On Point Montana with Tom Boyle of Helena. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

### **2013: Zinke Reported \$52,000 in Income from the Company**

According to Zinke’s federal personal financial disclosure, Zinke made \$52,000 in income as CEO of On Point Montana, a security consulting firm. [Whitefish Pilot, 7/22/14]

### **2014: Company Has Perpetual Duration**

According the Secretary of State’s Certificate of Fact, On Point Montana has a “perpetual duration.” [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 5/05/14]

*Note: The Secretary of State’s website has the company being “involuntarily dissolved” in 2013, however, the official Certificate of Fact has the company operating for a “perpetual duration.”*

### **2014: Zinke Described as CEO of the Business**

In 2014, the *Missoulian*, profiling Zinke, reported he was “CEO of On Point Montana, a security consulting firm.” [Missoulian, 9/28/14]

## **Double Tap, LLC**

### **2011: Double Tap, LLC Formed**

On June 6, 2011, Double Tap LLC was formed. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

### **2012 Business Disclosure Statement: MicroBrewery**

On his 2012 Business Disclosure Statement for Lieutenant Governor, Zinke called his On Point Montana a micro brewery business. [Business Disclosure Statement, 1/18/12]

**Principal with Jamie Zinke.** According to an April 2014 search, Zinke was a principal of Double Tap, LLC with his sister, Jamie Dial Zinke. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

**Jamie Zinke was Chief Executive Member.** According to a December 2011 “Bargain and Sale Deed,” Jamie Zinke was the Chief Executive Member. Ryan Zinke, his wife Lolita, and Dennis Dial were listed as Members. [State of Montana Department of Transportation, Parcel 40, 12/21/11]

### **2013: Involuntarily Dissolved**

According to the Secretary of State’s Certificate of Fact, Double Tap, LLC has a “perpetual duration.” [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 5/05/14]

*Note: The Secretary of State’s website has the company being “involuntarily dissolved” in 2013, however, the official Certificate of Fact has the company operating for a “perpetual duration.”*

### **Pulled Application For Microbrewery And Bed And Breakfast “Amid Opposition From Neighbors Who Didn’t Want The Commercial Development” On U.S. 93 Corridor**

“A corridor plan that addresses future land use along U.S. 93 West will be discussed during a Whitefish City Council work session today from 5 to 7 p.m. Three years ago Ryan Zinke, then a state senator, pulled his application for a microbrewery and bed-and-breakfast inn on U.S. 93 in that area amid opposition from neighbors who didn’t want the commercial development.” [Daily Inter Lake, [4/5/15](#)]

### **City Planning Staff Recommended Tabling Zinke’s Project “Because It Didn’t Comply With The Whitefish Growth Policy.”**

“At the time, the city planning staff had recommended tabling Zinke’s project until a corridor study could be done because it didn’t comply with the Whitefish growth policy. Zinke is now Montana’s lone representative in the U.S. House.” [Daily Inter Lake, [4/5/15](#)]

### **2012: Zinke “Pulled His Application For A Microbrewery And Bed-And-Breakfast Inn Amid Opposition From Neighbors.”**

“Proposed new transitional zoning districts along U.S. 93 West in Whitefish will be discussed during a Whitefish Planning Board work session that is part of the board’s regular monthly meeting on Thursday. The city wants to create a mixed-use neighborhood multifamily zone and a light industrial zone along the highway. Through public input and earlier planning work sessions, the 93 West Plan now identifies the types of uses deemed appropriate in the two new zoning districts. A public hearing on the proposed text for the districts will be held in November. [...] Three years ago Ryan Zinke, then a state senator, pulled his application for a microbrewery and bed-and-breakfast inn amid opposition from neighbors who didn’t want the commercial project in that area. Zinke, now U.S. representative, has continued to lobby for the inclusion of microbreweries in the mixed-use zone.” [Daily Inter Lake, [10/13/15](#)]

### **Daily Inter Lake: “Zinke, Now U.S. Representative, Has Continued To Lobby For The Inclusion Of Microbreweries In The Mixed-Use Zone.”**

“Proposed new transitional zoning districts along U.S. 93 West in Whitefish will be discussed during a Whitefish Planning Board work session that is part of the board’s regular monthly meeting on Thursday. The city wants to create a mixed-use neighborhood multifamily zone and a light industrial zone along the highway. Through public input and earlier planning work sessions, the 93 West Plan now identifies the types of uses deemed appropriate in the two new zoning districts. A public hearing on the proposed text for the districts will be held in November. [...] Three years ago Ryan Zinke, then a state senator, pulled his application for a microbrewery and bed-and-breakfast inn amid opposition from neighbors who didn’t want the commercial project in that area. Zinke, now U.S. representative, has continued to lobby for the inclusion of microbreweries in the mixed-use zone.” [Daily Inter Lake, [10/13/15](#)]

## ZINKE'S NON-PROFITS

- ✓ **Montana Firearms Institute:** In 2011, Zinke formed the Montana Firearms Institute as a lobbying organization hoping to bring gun businesses and manufacturers together. By 2014, it appeared “to be mostly inactive.”
- ✓ **Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, Inc.:** In 2007, Zinke founded the organization and served as the president. In 2010, it brought in \$197,000 in contributions, for total net assets of \$369,060. Zinke turned part of the Whitefish cemetery’s land into a park.
- ✓ **Center for Remote Integration:** Zinke was president of the “industry led and funded” organization founded in 2010. It was designed to promote Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) - also known as “drones.” In 2013, it was involuntarily dissolved.

### Montana Firearms Institute

#### 2011: Montana Firearms Institute Formed

On March 17, 2011 the Montana Firearms Institute was organized and classified as a “public benefit without members.” [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

#### Principal of Montana Firearms Institute, Inc

According to an April 2014 search with the Montana Secretary of State, Zinke was a Director of the Montana Firearms Institute. Duncan Scott and Joseph Gregory were also listed as Directors while Chris Hyatt was listed as both a Director and the President. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

#### Zinke Described Himself in Press as a Director and the Founder

In 2014, the Great Falls Tribune profiled Zinke as “a director of the Montana Firearms Institute” and “founder of Montana Firearms Institute.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/12/14]

#### Institute Was “Fostering Communication, Finding Government Contracts, and Lobbying”

According to an August 18, 2012, *Hungry Horse News* article, the Montana Firearms Institute was helping to grow the firearms industry by “fostering communication, finding government contracts and lobbying in Helena.” [Hungry Horse News, 4/18/12]

#### Zinke “Offered Assistance” to the Montana Firearms Institute Bringing Gun Businesses & Manufacturers Together

In 2014, the *Hungry Horse News* reported, “As a state senator, Zinke offered assistance to the Montana Firearms Institute, which was launched in the Flathead three years ago to help existing firearms businesses and to bring educational institutions and fire-arms-related manufacturers together. ‘I think I did my part,’ he said, noting the growth of the firearms industry in the Flathead in recent years. ‘I tried to be the connector. As a congressman I’ll advocate for all businesses.’” [Hungry Horse News, 11/12/14]

#### 2014: Zinke’s Montana Firearms Institute Appeared “to be Mostly Inactive”

In 2014, the *Montana Standard* reported in analysis of an advertisement for Zinke, “The documentation says that Zinke is “a strong supporter of the Second Amendment” and serves as a director of the Montana Firearms Institute, a group he helped form in 2011 to help firearms businesses in Montana and establish training

programs. The left-leaning blog Intelligent Discontent said in May that the Montana Firearms Institute appears to be ‘moribund’ because it doesn’t have a website or Facebook page and appears to be mostly inactive.” [Montana Standard, 10/14/14]

## **Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, Inc**

### **2007: Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, Inc**

On August 15, 2007, the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, Inc was formed as a charitable foundation. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

### **Principal with Wife and Daughter**

According to an April 2014 search, Zinke was a Director of the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, Inc. His wife was the President and his daughter was a Director, Secretary and Treasurer. John S Petersen and Tim Grattan were both listed as Directors. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

### **Zinke Described as “President/Founder”**

In 2014, Zinke described as “the president/founder of the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/12/14]

### **2010: Zinke Devoted 4 Hours a Week to His Position**

According to the 2010 990 form, Zinke devoted four hours a week to his position at the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation. [990-EZ Form, accessed 5/08/14]

### **2010: \$197,000 in Contributions, Gifts, and Grants**

According to the 2010 990 form, the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation received \$197,000 in contributions, gifts, and grants, including a land donation valued at \$195,000. [990-EZ Form, accessed 5/08/14]

### **2010: \$4,200 in Expenses**

According to the 2010 990 form, the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation had \$4,200 in expenses. [990-EZ Form, accessed 5/08/14]

### **2010: \$369,060 in Net Assets at Year End**

According to the 2010 990 form, the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation had \$369,060 in net assets at year-end. [990-EZ Form, accessed 5/08/14]

### **2008: \$178,500 in Contributions, Gifts, and Grants**

According to the 2009 990 form, the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation received \$178,500 in contributions, gifts, and grants, including \$176,000 in unimproved land. [990-EZ Form, accessed 5/08/14]

### **2011: Zinke Turned Whitefish Cemetery Land into a Park**

In 2011, *the Daily Inter Lake* reported, “With an ‘attaboy’ for developing a nice community park, the Whitefish City Council didn’t hesitate Monday in granting Ryan Zinke’s request for a five-year lease to the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation for a corner of city-owned cemetery land. When it was discovered that city law precluded using any portion of cemetery land for a purpose other than as a cemetery, Zinke, a Republican state senator from Whitefish, helped pass a bill through the Legislature clarifying that a portion of cemetery grounds unsuitable for use as a cemetery may be used for other public purposes. The sledding hills in the park are separated from Whitefish Cemetery by Ramsey Avenue and the topography and separation from the current cemetery leaves the land north and east of Ramsey as unsuitable for use as a cemetery. Zinke got the ball rolling on the Veterans Peace Park three years ago by obtaining an old gravel pit near the Whitefish Cemetery from BNSF Railway Co. for use as a recreation area. The initial goal was to create a prime sledding hill for children. After discovering his old neighborhood play area still undeveloped, Zinke began a mission to

secure the open space for the public. He envisioned the gentle slopes with a bowl shape as a great setup not just for sledding but also concerts in the summer.” [Daily Inter Lake, 7/20/11]

### **Zinke Made Deal with Construction Company to Help Construct Park**

In December 2013, Zinke made a deal with LHC Construction to help construct the Peace Park. Zinke allowed 27,000 of uncontaminated material, which was removed during a road project, be dumped on the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation’s land at no cost. In return, LHC Construction agreed to use the materials to shape a concert bowl and flatten a parking area. Zinke said, “It’s a win-win. The park is going to turn out phenomenal [...] This has been done without one dime of public costs. When people work together we can get a lot more accomplished.” [Whitefish Pilot, 12/03/13]

### **January 2008: BNSF Railway Donated Land for Park**

On January 23, 2008, the BNSF Railway Company and the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation signed a quitclaim deed. In the deed, BNSF Railway donated 4.892 acres for a public park. [Quitclaim Deed, 200800006268, 1/23/08]

### **December 2010: BNSF Railway Donated Land for Parking Lot**

On December 27, 2010, the BNSF Railway Company and the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation signed a quitclaim deed. In the deed, BNSF Railway donated land for a parking lot for the park. [Quitclaim Deed, 201100002900, 12/27/10]

### **June 2013: BNSF Donated Land for Park**

On June 6, 2013, the BNSF Railway Company and the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation signed a quitclaim deed. In the deed, BNSF Railway donated land for a public park. [Quitclaim Deed, 201300013932, 5/06/13]

### **No Appraisal History Records Available**

According to a 2014 search of the Flathead County Assessor website, no appraisal history records were available. [Flathead County Assessor, accessed 6/16/14]

### **No Tax History Records Available**

According to a 2014 search of the Flathead County Assessor website, no tax history records were available. [Flathead County Assessor, accessed 6/16/14]

### **BNSF Railway Was a Major Zinke Contributor**

From 2013-2015, BNSF Railway was Zinke’s 7th largest source of contributions (through employees and PACs) at \$17,700. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 3/12/16]

## **Center for Remote Integration**

### **2010: Center for Remote Integration Formed**

On June 11, 2010, the Center for Remote Integration was formed and classified as a “public benefit with members.” [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

### **President of Center for Remote Integration**

According to an April 2014 search, Ryan Zinke was a Director as well as the President of the Center for Remote Integration. His wife was a Director as well as the Secretary and Ed Buthy was a Director and the Vice President. Zinke’s address was listed as 415 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

### **2012: Montana Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Center for Remote Integration**

In 2012, *Market News Publishing*, in a press release for Save the World Air, Inc., noted of Zinke, “He serves as the Director of the Montana Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Center for Remote Integration.” [Market News Publishing, 10/14/12]

### **2012: CRI & Zinke Did Demonstrations of Drones for State Legislators**

In 2012, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “With a small crowd of legislators and civic leaders observing, a nonprofit group launched a small, unmanned aircraft at the former runway at Malmstrom Air Force Base early Wednesday morning. Remotely controlled, the 30-pound Sandstorm plane with a 15-foot wing span performed a few silent loops as onlookers buzzed with excitement. State Sen. Ed Buttrey, R-Great Falls, a director of the Center for Remote Integration, said the demonstration was meant to show the plane’s versatility. He said the plane was developed and manufactured by Unmanned Systems Inc. in Columbia Falls, with the first few prototypes being sold individually to national companies, such as aerospace manufacturer Northrop Grumman, which also is marketing the aircraft.” [Great Falls Tribune, 9/13/12]

### **Zinke Acknowledged the Nonprofit Was “Industry Led and Funded”**

In 2012, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “CRI is a nonprofit group that was formed three years ago and has its headquarters in Whitefish, Zinke said. It is an industry led and funded group with industry, academic and government advisers that helps develop, manufacture and test unmanned aircraft systems.” [Great Falls Tribune, 9/13/12]

### **2013: Involuntarily Dissolved**

On December 2, 2013, the Center for Remote Integration was involuntarily dissolved. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 4/28/14]

## PROPERTY OWNERSHIP & TAX HISTORY

- ✓ Zinke owns numerous properties, both in his name and in the name of his companies, and has frequently transferred properties between his name and a business name for unknown reasons.
- ✓ Zinke had five late property tax payments.
- ✓ Zinke owned property in California, but records show he sold his last property there in 2006.
- ✓ Zinke's wife owned what appeared to be a boat slip in Santa Barbara, but no other properties there were found in her name.
- ✓ A 2016 Zinke fundraiser was described in the invitation email to be at "Lola and Congressman Ryan Zinke's Home" in Santa Barbara, CA.
- ✓ A 2014 article acknowledged Lola Zinke moved back to Santa Barbara for a time to take care of her sick mother.

**409 W 2nd Street, Whitefish, MT 59937**

### **July 2009: Deed of Trust for \$204,800**

On July 10, 2009, Zinke and his wife entered into a deed of trust with Mann Mortgage, LLC as the lender, and Alliance Title and Escrow Co, as the trustee. The Zinkes owed Mann Mortgage \$204,800, plus interest, to be paid in full by August 1, 2039. [Deed of Trust, 200900020636, 7/10/09]

### **December 2009: Transferred Property to Continental Divide International, LLC (Their Company)**

On December 29, 2009, the Zinkes transferred the property to their company, Continental Divide International, LLC. [Warranty Deed, 200900035731, 12/29/09]

### **November 2010: Transferred Property Back into Their Names**

On November 18, 2008, the property was transferred from Continental Divide International, LLC into Zinke and his wife's name. [Quitclaim Deed, 2010000026953, 11/18/10]

### **January 2011: Transferred Property to Continental Divide Inns, LLC (Their Company)**

On January 21, 2011, the Zinkes transferred the property to their company, Continental Divide Inns, LLC. [Quitclaim Deed, 201100002471, 1/21/11]

### **February 2013: Transferred Property Back into Own Names**

On February 22, 2013, the Zinkes transferred the property into their names. [Quitclaim Deed, 201300004625, 2/22/13]

### **December 2013: Transferred Property to Continental Divide International, LLC (Their Company)**

On December 23, 2013, the Zinkes transferred the property to their company, Continental Divide International, LLC. [Quitclaim Deed 201300032152, 12/23/13]

### **Property Tax Payment History**

YEAR	INST.	DUE	PAID	AMOUNT	VOID/ ABATE	PENALTY & INTEREST	PAID
2015	2	5/31/16	Not Paid	\$2,007.57			
2015	1	11/30/15	11/6/15	\$2,007.59			\$2,007.59
2014	2	5/31/15	6/1/15	\$2,015.26			\$2,015.26
2014	1	11/30/14	11/21/14	\$2,015.28			\$2,015.28
2013	2	5/31/14	5/28/14	\$2,026.67			\$2,026.67
2013	1	11/30/13	11/18/13	\$2,026.69			\$2,026.69
2012	2	5/31/13	10/30/12	\$2,047.62			\$2,047.62
2012	1	11/30/12	10/30/12	\$2,047.65			\$2,047.65
2011	2	5/31/12	5/8/12	\$2,056.29			\$2,056.29
2011	1	11/30/11	11/18/11	\$2,056.33			\$2,056.33
2010	2	5/31/11	5/26/11	\$2,113.44			\$2,113.44
2010	1	11/30/10	11/26/10	\$2,113.48			\$2,113.48
2009	2	6/1/10	6/17/10	\$1,960.12	\$326.54		\$1,960.12
2009	1	11/30/09	12/1/09	\$2,286.69			\$2,286.69
2008	2	5/31/09	5/22/09	\$2,272.69			\$2,272.69
2008	1	11/30/08	11/26/08	\$2,272.70			\$2,272.70
<b>2007</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5/31/08</b>	<b>6/30/08</b>	<b>\$1,908.96</b>		<b>\$53.86</b>	<b>\$1,962.82</b>
2007	1	11/30/07	11/21/07	\$1,908.98			\$1,908.98
<b>2006</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5/31/07</b>	<b>7/6/07</b>	<b>\$1,906.59</b>		<b>\$69.99</b>	<b>\$1,976.58</b>
2006	1	11/30/06	12/6/06	\$1,906.62			\$1,906.62
2005	2	5/31/06	6/8/06	\$1,526.97			\$1,526.97
2005	1	11/30/05	12/8/05	\$1,526.99			\$1,526.99
2004	2	5/31/05	6/15/05	\$301.59			\$301.59
2004	1	11/30/04	11/12/04	\$301.59			\$301.59
2003	2	5/31/04	5/24/04	\$261.10			\$261.10
2003	1	11/30/03	12/2/03	\$261.11			\$261.11
2002	2	5/31/03	5/28/03	\$242.48			\$242.48
2002	1	11/30/02	12/2/02	\$242.49			\$242.49
2001	2	5/31/02	5/28/02	\$233.94			\$233.94
2001	1	11/30/01	12/4/01	\$233.96			\$233.96
2000	2	5/31/01	5/18/01	\$232.62			\$232.62
2000	1	11/30/00	11/24/00	\$232.62			\$232.62
1999	2	5/31/00	5/23/00	\$327.66			\$327.66
1999	1	11/30/99	12/2/99	\$327.66			\$327.66
1998	2	5/31/99	6/1/99	\$335.53			\$335.53
1998	1	11/30/98	11/6/98	\$335.55			\$335.55

[Flathead County Assessor, Tax ID/APN 337050, accessed 3/05/16]

## **415 W 2nd Street, Whitefish, MT 59937**

### **March 2005: Transferred Property to Company**

On March 1, 2005, Zinke and his wife transferred their property to their company, Continental Divide Inns, LLC. [Quitclaim Deed, 200512308030, 3/01/05]

### **November 2010: Transferred Property into Their Names**

On November 18, 2008, the property was transferred from Continental Divide Inns, LLC into Zinke and his wife's name. [Quitclaim Deed, 2010000026953, 11/18/10]

### **January 2011: Deed of Trust for \$198,750**

On January 2, 2011, the Zinkes entered into a deed of trust with Mann Mortgage, LLC as the lender, and Alliance Title and Escrow Corporation as the trustee. The Zinkes owed Mann Mortgage \$198,750, plus interest, to be paid in full by January 1, 2041. [Deed of Trust, 201100000845, 1/02/11]

### **December 2011: Transferred Property to Company**

On December 21, 2011, the Zinkes transferred the property to their company, Continental Divide Inns, LLC. [Quitclaim Deed, 201100026584, 12/21/11]

### **December 2013: Transferred Property to Other Company**

On December 23, 2013, the property was transferred to their company, Continental Divide International, LLC. [Quitclaim Deed, 20140000046, 12/23/13]

## **Real Estate Documents Relating to 409 and 415 West Second Street**

### **October 1998: Deed of Trust for \$71,250**

On October 26, 1998, Zinke and his wife entered into a deed of trust with First American Title Company as the trustee and PHH Mortgage Services Corporation as the beneficiary. According to the terms of the agreement, the Zinkes owed PHH Mortgage, \$71,250 by November 1, 2028. [Deed of Trust, 199830812220, 10/26/98]

### **February 1999: Trust Indenture for \$10,000**

On February 28, 1999, Zinke and his wife entered a trust indenture with Flathead County Title Company as the trustee and Whitefish Credit Union as the lender for the purpose of securing \$10,000, to be paid in full by February 28, 2004. [Montana Trust Indenture, 199915908520, 2/28/04]

### **January 2003: Substitute of Trustee and Full Reconveyance**

On January 13, 2003, Fidelity National Title Insurance Company became the substitute trustee of the property and issued a full reconveyance. [Substitute of Trustee 200303013330, 1/13/03; Full Reconveyance, 200303013340, 1/13/03]

### **June 2004: Deed of Trust for \$220,000**

On June 17, 2004, Zinke and his wife entered into a deed of trust with Webster Bank as the lender and First American Title Insurance Company as the trustee. The Zinkes owed \$220,000, plus interest, to Webster Bank, to be paid in full by July 1, 2034. [Deed of Trust, 200417615340, 6/17/04]

### **March 2013: Deed of Trust for \$188,963**

On March 22, 2013, Zinke and his wife entered into a deed of trust with Mann Mortgage, LLC as the lender and Alliance Title and Escrow Corporation as the trustee. The Zinkes owed \$188,963, plus interest, to Mann Mortgage to be paid in full by April 1, 2043. [Deed of Trust, 201300007375, 3/22/13]

## **410 W 3rd Street, Whitefish, MT 59937**

**April 2009: Signed Deed of Trust, \$198,336 Loan**

On April 1, 2009, Zinke and his wife signed a Deed of Trust with Mann Mortgage, LLC as the lender and Alliance Title and Escrow Corporation as the trustee. Zinke and his wife owed Mann Mortgage \$198,336 plus interest, which had to be paid in full by April 1, 2039. [Deed of Trust, 200900009726, 4/01/09]

**December 2009: Sold Property to his Company, Continental Divide International**

On December 31, 2009, Zinke and his wife sold the property, by way of a warranty deed, to their company, Continental Divide International. [Warranty Deed, 200900035729, 12/29/09]

**March 2013: Signed Deed of Trust, \$187,317 Loan**

On March 22, 2013, Zinke and his wife signed a Deed of Trust with Mann Mortgage, LLC as the lender and Alliance Title and Escrow Corporation as the trustee. Zinke and his wife owed Mann Mortgage \$187,317 plus interest, which had to be paid in full by April 1, 2039. [Deed of Trust, 201300007374, 3/22/13]

**May 2013: Substituted Trustee**

On May 6, 2013, the trustee of the title was changed to ReconTrust Company. [Substitution of Trustee, 201300011528, 5/06/13]

**February 2013: Transferred Property into Their Names**

On February 22, 2013, Zinke and his wife transferred the property back into their names. [Quitclaim Deed, 201300004626, 2/22/13]

**December 2013: Transferred Property Back to Continental Divide International**

On December 26, 2013, Zinke and his wife transferred the property back to Continental Divide International.

**430 Antelope Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937 (Happy Valley Lots)****January 2007: His Sister Conveyed Zinke Two Lots from an Estate**

On January 1, 2007, Jamie Zinke, acting as a representative of the estate of Jean Harlow Petersen, conveyed Lot 556 and Lot 557 of the Happy Valley Homesites to Zinke. [Deed of Distribution, 1/01/07, 200700210020, 1/01/09]

**July 2007: Ryan & Randy Zinke Quit Claim Property Unto to Ryan & Lolita Zinke**

On July 16, 2007, Ryan and Randy Zinke quit claimed the property unto Ryan and Lolita Zinke. [Quitclaim Deed, 200700029857, 7/16/07]

**December 2009: Transferred Deed to His Company, Continental Divide International**

On December 29, 2009, Zinke and his wife transferred the two Happy Valley Homesites to their company, Continental Divide International. [Warranty Deed, 200900035730, 12/29/09]

**July 2013: Sold Property to Terrie Dirk Meyer and Sylvia Meyer**

On July 22, 2013, Continental Divide International sold the property to Terrie Dirk Meyer and Sylvia Meyer. [Warranty Deed, 201300017803, 7/22/13]

**Property Tax Payment History**

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>INSTALLMENTS</i>	<i>DATE PAID</i>	<i>AMOUNT LEVIED</i>	<i>AMOUNT ABATED</i>	<i>PENALTY AND INTEREST</i>	<i>TOTAL PAID</i>
2012	2	10/30/12	\$57.76	0	0	\$57.76
2012	1	10/30/12	\$57.79	0	0	\$57.79
2011	2	11/18/11	\$59.86	0	0	\$59.86

2011	1	11/18/11	\$59.88	0	0	\$59.88
2010	2	11/08/10	\$63.98	0	0	\$63.98
2010	1	11/08/10	\$64.01	0	0	\$64.01
2009	2	6/16/10	\$125.49	0	0	\$125.49
2009	1	12/01/09	\$125.49	0	0	\$125.49
2008	2	5/22/09	\$71.36	0	0	\$71.36
2008	1	11/28/08	\$71.37	0	0	\$71.37
<b>2007</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6/30/08</b>	<b>\$68.34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1.92</b>	<b>\$70.26</b>
2007	1	12/06/07	\$68.36	0	0	\$68.36

[Flathead County Assessor, accessed 6/16/14]

### **Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Property**

#### **January 2008: BNSF Railway Donated Land for Park**

On January 23, 2008, the BNSF Railway Company and the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation signed a quitclaim deed. In the deed, BNSF Railway donated 4.892 acres for a public park. [Quitclaim Deed, 200800006268, 1/23/08]

#### **December 2010: BNSF Railway Donated Land for Parking Lot**

On December 27, 2010, the BNSF Railway Company and the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation signed a quitclaim deed. In the deed, BNSF Railway donated land for a parking lot for the park. [Quitclaim Deed, 201100002900, 12/27/10]

#### **June 2013: BNSF Donated Land for Park**

On June 6, 2013, the BNSF Railway Company and the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation signed a quitclaim deed. In the deed, BNSF Railway donated land for a public park. [Quitclaim Deed, 201300013932, 5/06/13]

#### **No Appraisal History Records Available**

According to a 2014 search of the Flathead County Assessor website, no appraisal history records were available. [Flathead County Assessor, accessed 6/16/14]

#### **No Tax History Records Available**

According to a 2014 search of the Flathead County Assessor website, no tax history records were available. [Flathead County Assessor, accessed 6/16/14]

#### **1201 (1207) 2nd, Kalispell MT**

On Zinke's Personal Financial Disclosure from 2014, he listed a property at 1201 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kalispell MT. A search of Flathead County's property tax site and parcel search yielded no evidence of this address. [Flathead County GIS, accessed 5/08/14]

A handwritten note on a lined background that reads "1201 2<sup>nd</sup> Kalispell MT".

[Personal Financial Disclosure, accessed [5/08/14](#)]

#### **...However, the Address was Listed as 1207 2<sup>nd</sup> on a 2012 Business Disclosure**

...However, according to a search of the Flathead County Geographic Information Systems and his 2012 Business Disclosure Statement, Zinke owned property at 1207 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Kalispell MT, 59901 from 2007 to 2013. [Flathead County GIS, accessed 5/08/14; Business Disclosure Statement, 1/18/12]

1207 2nd Kalispell mt

[Business Disclosure Statement, 1/18/12]

**January 2007: His Sister Conveyed Zinke Lot from an Estate**

On January 1, 2007, Jamie Zinke, acting as a representative of the estate of Jean Harlow Petersen, conveyed "Lot 1 of the Amended Plat of Lots 3 and 4 of Block 217, Kalispell Townsite Company" to Zinke. [Deed of Distribution, 200700210010, 1/01/07]

**July 2007: Transferred Property into His and His Wife's Name**

On July 11, 2007, Zinke transferred the property into his and his wife's name. [Quitclaim Deed, 200700029855, 7/11/07]

**December 2009: Transferred Property to Company**

On December 29, 2009, Zinke and his wife transferred the property to their company, Continental Divide International. [Warranty Deed, 200900035728, 12/29/09]

**September 2013: Sold Property to Catherine Webber**

On September 25, 2013, Continental Divide International sold the property to Catherine Webber. [Warranty Deed. 201300025233, 9/25/13]

**Property Tax Payment History**

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>INSTALLMENTS</i>	<i>DATE PAID</i>	<i>AMOUNT LEVIED</i>	<i>AMOUNT ABATED</i>	<i>PENALTY AND INTEREST</i>	<i>TOTAL PAID</i>
2013	2	11/19/13	1200.22	0	0	1200.22
2013	1	11/19/13	1200.26	0	0	1200.26
2012	2	10/30/12	1150.42	0	0	1150.42
2012	1	10/30/12	1150.45	0	0	1150.45
2012	2	Voided	0	1152.62	0	0
2012	1	Voided	0	1152.65	0	0
2011	2	5/08/12	1113.41	0	0	1113.41
2011	1	11/18/11	1113.45	0	0	1113.45
2010	2	5/26/11	1063.20	0	0	1063.20
2010	1	11/08/10	1063.24	0	0	1063.24
2009	2	6/16/10	1013.46	0	0	1013.46
2009	1	12/01/09	1013.50	0	0	1013.50
2008	2	5/22/09	956.95	0	0	956.95
2008	1	11/28/08	956.99	0	0	956.99
<b>2007</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6/30/08</b>	<b>938.99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26.48</b>	<b>965.47</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6/30/08</b>	<b>939.02</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73.57</b>	<b>1012.59</b>

[Flathead County Assessor, accessed 4/28/14]

**California Properties**

**1137 5<sup>th</sup> St., Imperial Beach, CA 91931**

In July 2003, Zinke and his wife purchased this property for \$597,000 from William H. and Kathleen Moore Farling (trustee/conservator). The property was purchased with a Countrywide Bank fixed-rate mortgage for \$447,750. [San Diego County Assessment Record, APN 632-081-27]

### **Sold Property in January 2006**

According to the deed, Zinke and his wife sold this property to Robert and Mary Ann Schoultz for \$817,000. [San Diego County Deed Record, APN 632-081-27]

### **1331 Connecticut St., Imperial Beach, CA 91932**

In 1990, this property was purchased by Zinke as his “sole and separate property” while he lived in Virginia Beach, VA. [San Diego County Assessment Record, APN 632-231-04]

### **June 2003: Took Out Nearly \$300,000 in Credit & Loans on the Property**

In June 2003, Zinke and his wife took out a mortgage for purchase money from Americas Wholesale Lender for \$195,000. There was also a June 2003 non-purchase money loan (revolving credit line) for \$100,000. [San Diego County Deed Record, APN 632-231-04]

### **July 2003: Sold the Property for \$449,000**

In July 10, 2003, Zinke and his wife sold this property to Bryan Hill and Leah Pallin Hill for \$449,000. [San Diego County Deed Record, APN 632-231-04]

### **Zinke’s California Home**

*NOTE: Extensive searches were conducted for any properties in California in Zinke’s or his wife’s name. The only homes that were found were sold in 2003 and 2006. However, Lolita Zinke (his wife) holds a Santa Barbara property in her name – what appears to be a harbor slip or possibly a boat– see below for details of that and other information.*

### **Harbor 1-M-14 Santa Barbara, CA**

In 2015, Lolita C. Zinke (Zinke’s wife) and Fredrick W. (likely Lola’s father Fred Hand, but no last name was listed) were listed as the owners of this property in Santa Barbara, CA. The land use was described as “watercraft.” The property assessed for \$133,619 in 2015. [Santa Barbara County, APN 1M140012]

*NOTE: No further information was available.*



“Justin Fareed is a natural leader and the kind that Congress needs more of. As a retired Naval officer, I appreciate a man of strong character and mental toughness, who understands that the mission is greater than any one person. Only by working together can we begin to engineer the long-term solutions to the serious challenges our nation faces.” – *Congressman Ryan Zinke, U.S. Navy SEAL Commander (retired)*

Please Join

Lola and Congressman Ryan Zinke  
Tony Brown                      Jon Jorgensen  
Thomas Goodson                Patrick Jon Pflipsen

\*Partial Listing

For a reception with

**JUSTIN FAREED**

Candidate for California's 24th District  
for the United States House of Representatives

Thursday, March 24, 2016

at the home of Lola and Congressman Ryan Zinke  
Santa Barbara, California  
Address provided upon RSVP

5:30 PM Host Committee Reception - \$1,000 per person  
6:00 PM General Reception - \$250 Suggested Contribution

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW RSVP INFORMATION](#) or email [info@crystalrowland.com](mailto:info@crystalrowland.com)

Questions? Call [310-648-7707](tel:310-648-7707)

[Zinke for Congress fundraising email, 3/15/16]

### **Zinke Previously Held Fundraiser in Santa Barbara, CA Where Wife Had Moved Temporarily to Care for Her Sick Mom**

In 2014, Zinke came under criticism for a fundraiser in an unincorporated suburb of Santa Barbara, CA called Hope Ranch when campaign signs were posted and drew protest. According to the *Helena Independent Record*, “Zinke said his wife, Lola, originally is from Santa Barbara, and moved there this winter to care for her mother, who is suffers from an aging disease. He was going to be on the campaign trail in Montana. Lola Zinke and her mother, Consuelo Hand, will be in back in Whitefish again this summer. He said his mother-in-law, consulate to

Peru in the Eisenhower administration, has lived with them for three years. The *Santa Barbara Independent* said Lola is the daughter of Fred Hand, a prominent Santa Barbara businessman in the 1960s who has a street named after him. Zinke said he was in Santa Barbara visiting his wife and mother-in-law, who needs help. Some friends there were kind enough to sponsor a fundraiser there, he said.” [Helena Independent Record, [5/14/14](#)]

## PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

- ✓ Zinke reported \$144,828.07 in earned income.
- ✓ Zinke's personal investments were reported to be between \$501,005 and \$1,115,000.
- ✓ He listed between \$200,002 and \$500,000 in liabilities.
- ✓ He filed an amended 2014 disclosure that removed a number of items including over \$32,000 in earned income, an art & auto collection valued for \$150,000-\$350,000, and a truck loan for \$15,000-\$50,000.

### 2014: \$144,828.07 in Earned Income

SOURCE	TYPE	AMOUNT	
		CURRENT YEAR	PRECEDING YEAR
Hand Trust	Spouse Salary	\$0	\$24,000
On Point Montana (OPM) LLC	Earned Income from Contracts	\$0	\$49,328.07
Special Operations for America	Reimbursement	\$0	\$6,500
Save the World Air (STWA)	Consulting Fees	\$0	\$65,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$144,828.07</b>

[U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosure Amendment, Filed [7/8/15](#)]

### 2014: Between \$501,005 and \$1,115,000 in Personal Investments

As of July, 2015, Zinke held stocks and other investments valued between \$501,005 and \$1,115,000. Zinke's investments earned between \$30,004 and \$95,000 in 2014.

	VALUE OF ASSET	TYPE OF INCOME	INCOME	
			CURRENT YEAR	PRECEDING YEAR
Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC Santa Barbara Harbor (boat)*	\$50,001 - \$100,000	None	None	None
Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC, Second Street West Whitefish, MT*	\$250,001-\$500,001	Rent	None	\$5,001-\$15,000
Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC, Third Street West Whitefish, MT*	\$100,001-\$250,000	Rent	None	\$5,001-\$15,000
Double Tap LLC (Undeveloped property pending zoning approval)	\$100,001-\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	\$5,001 - \$15,000

Save The World Air, Inc. (ZERO) (stock shares)	\$1,001-\$15,000	Capital Gains	None	\$15,001-\$50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$501,005-\$1,115,000</b>		<b>None</b>	<b>\$30,004-\$95,000</b>

[U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosure Amendment, Filed [7/8/15](#)]

*\*In Zinke's initial Financial Disclosure Report (filed 5/18/15), these three items are listed collectively as Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC, valued between \$500,001 and \$1,000,000, and said to have yielded between \$100,001-\$1,000,000 in both the current and preceding year.*

#### **2014: Zinke Listed between \$200,002 and \$500,000 in Liabilities**

CREDITOR	DATE LIABILITY INCURRED	TYPE OF LIABILITY	AMOUNT
Wells Fargo (JT)	2004	Primary Residence	\$100,001 - \$250,000
Wells Fargo (JT)	2004	Rental Property, Whitefish, MT 59937	\$100,001 - \$250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$200,002 - \$500,000</b>

[U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosure Amendment, Filed [7/8/15](#)]

#### **2014: Items Removed in Amended Disclosure**

Zinke filed his initial 2014 Financial Disclosure Report on May 18, 2015. He filed an amendment to that report on July 8, 2015. The following items were included in Zinke's initial report, but not in his amended report.

#### **\$32,998.59 in Earned Income**

SOURCE	TYPE	AMOUNT	
		CURRENT YEAR	PRECEDING YEAR
Department of Defense	Military Retirement	\$32,998.59	\$32,998.59
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$32,998.59</b>	<b>\$32,998.59</b>

[U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosure, Filed [5/18/15](#)]

#### **Between \$150,002 and \$350,000 in Personal Investments**

	VALUE OF ASSET	TYPE OF INCOME	INCOME	
			CURRENT YEAR	PRECEDING YEAR
Art Collection	\$100,001-\$250,000	Family Collection	None	None
Auto Collection (Including 1938 Series 65 Cadillac and 2004 Harley Davidson)	\$50,001-\$100,000	Collection	None	None
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,002-\$350,000</b>		<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>

[U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosure, Filed [5/18/15](#)]

#### **Between \$15,001 and \$50,000 in Liabilities**

CREDITOR	DATE LIABILITY INCURRED	TYPE OF LIABILITY	AMOUNT
USAA	2011	Truck Loan Chevy 2500	\$15,001-\$50,000

**TOTAL** **\$15,001-\$50,000**

[U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosure, Filed [5/18/15](#)]

**\$215,000 in Earned Income in 2013**

SOURCE	TYPE	AMOUNT	
		CURRENT YEAR	PRECEDING YEAR
Continental Divide International	Salary	\$40,000	\$36,600
Institute for Prosperity	Salary	\$0	\$30,000
State of Montana	Sale of Property	\$14,000	\$2,336
Special Operations for America	Expenses	\$0	\$5,000
On Point Montana	Salary	\$52,000	\$62,590
Montana Firearms Institute	Salary	\$0	\$6,751.51
Xtreme Precision Arms	Salary	\$0	\$16,975.75
Personalities and Promotions	Honoraria	\$0	\$5,000
STWA	Director's Fee	\$85,000	\$0
Hand Trust	Spouse's Salary	\$24,000	\$24,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$215,000</b>	<b>\$189,253</b>

[U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosures, Filed [12/07/13](#)]

**Between \$1,130,009 and \$2,450,000 in Personal Investments**

As of December 2013, Zinke held stocks and other investments valued between \$1,130,009 and \$2,450,000. Zinke's investments earned between \$30,205 and \$96,000 in 2013.

	VALUE OF ASSET	TYPE OF INCOME	INCOME	
			CURRENT YEAR	PRECEDING YEAR
Whitefish Credit Union	\$50,001 - \$100,000	Interest	\$201 - \$1,000	\$201 - \$1,000
STWA Santa Barbara, CA	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital gains	\$15,001 - \$50,000	None
409 W 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Whitefish, MT	\$250,001 - \$500,000	None	None	None
415 W 2 <sup>nd</sup> Whitefish, MT	\$250,001 - \$500,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
410 W 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Whitefish, MT	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
1201 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Kalispell, MT	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
336 W 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Whitefish, MT (Double Tap Property, JT)	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Partnership income	None	None
Household goods/art (JT)	\$250,001 - \$500,000	None	None	None
Happy Valley, two lots (JT)	\$15,001 - \$50,000	None	None	None
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,130,009 – \$2,450,000</b>		<b>\$30,205 - \$96,000</b>	<b>\$15,204 - \$46,000</b>

[U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosures, Filed [12/07/13](#)]

**2013: Zinke Listed between \$215,003 and \$550,000 in Liabilities**

CREDITOR	DATE LIABILITY INCURRED	TYPE OF LIABILITY	AMOUNT
Wells Fargo (JT)	2/1998	Mortgage on 415 W 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Whitefish	\$100,001 - \$250,000
Wells Fargo (JT)	2/2001	Mortgage on 410 W 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Whitefish	\$100,001 - \$250,000
GMAC (JT)	3/2013	Loan 2013 Chevy Truck	\$15,001 - \$50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$215,003 - \$550,000</b>

[U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosures, Filed [12/07/13](#)]

## POLITICAL CAREER

- ✓ Zinke first ran for office in 2008 for the Montana State Senate. In 2012, he ran for Lieutenant Governor and lost the primary. Then in 2014 he ran for and was elected to Congress.

### **Zinke Announced Run for Re-election in 2016**

In 2016, Zinke announced his bid for a second term at a Republican dinner Saturday in Helena. According to the *Daily Journal*, “In an interview before his announcement, Zinke said he would continue to be a voice ‘in a Washington that does not understand Montana values.’ ‘It’s a battle over who controls our water, who controls our coal, who controls our future,’ the Republican said.” [Daily Journal, [3/05/16](#)]

### **Zinke Campaign Platform: “Support And Defend The Constitution Of The United States”**

“This week, Montana’s Office of Public Instructions Superintendent Denise Juneau told the Associated Press she would be challenging sitting U.S. Congressman Ryan Zinke for his seat. Juneau said her campaign would focus on four main issues: ‘Preparing the next generation for the global economy, access to public lands, protecting privacy and promoting transparency in election campaigns.’ In response, Ryan Zinke explained what he would campaign on. ‘I think we should focus on three things: support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The Constitution should be more than words. It represents our nations values and individual rights. Secondly, I think we need to promote a free and prosperous economy. Unless we have an economy that is growing and is prosperous, you can’t afford a strong military, you can’t afford to keep the promises we’ve made, and we’ve made a lot of promises as a country,’ Zinke said. ‘Lastly, I think we need a strong defense. Defense is both national defense and military, but also securing our southern borders. If we focus on those core three things, I think Congress and our country would be stronger.’ [KGVO, [11/6/15](#)]

### **Mike Jopek: “John Boehner Reportedly Highlighted Fundraisers In The Bozeman And Whitefish” For Zinke**

“Freshman Congressman Ryan Zinke has raised an impressive amount of reelection money totaling \$2.1 million, year-to-date. Zinke starts this month with nearly \$750,000 cash-on-hand according to the Federal Election Commission. [...] While it appears that Zinke’s team has been busy mailing-for-cash, outgoing Speaker of the House John Boehner reportedly highlighted fundraisers in the Bozeman and Whitefish areas helping boost coffers.” [Flathead Beacon, Mike Jopek, [10/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Endorsed Brian Mast for Palm Beach-Treasure CD18**

“Brian Mast, the wounded Army special ops combat veteran seeking the GOP nomination for the nationally watched Palm Beach-Treasure Coast District 18 congressional seat, announced today that he’s been endorsed by U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana.” [Palm Beach Post, [10/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Allen West Was An “American Hero”**

“Republican leaders and activists gathered in Hamilton for a fundraiser and barbeque at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds over the weekend. ‘It’s great to be here with people in Montana because I think the message of liberty of freedom of opportunity needs to be spread all over the country,’ West said. West is a U.S. Army veteran who fought in Iraq and is renowned in the Republican Party. About 450 people attended the event, including Republican Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke. ‘It’s just supporting Allen West, he is an American hero, glad to be here with him, glad to look at the vets in the valley, support the veterans,’ Zinke said. ‘I think Allen’s message is important. Its about the Constitution of the United States, and how far we’ve drifted and how

far we need to drift back,' he added. Zinke told MTN News that he is considering running for the vacant Speaker of the House position, but at this point he hasn't made up his mind." [KPAX, [10/19/15](#)]

### Zinke Called Allen West "My Good Friend"



Ryan Zinke @RyanZinke · 17 Oct 2015

Happy to see my good friend @AllenWest today in Hamilton



[Twitter, @RyanZinke, 10/17/15]

### Shelby DeMars, Zinke Former Communications Director Lobbied For United Property Owners Of Montana

"A group of eastern Montana ranchers represented by a Billings law firm has filed a brief with the Montana Supreme Court, contending the city of Missoula failed to meet the statutory requirements needed to win its condemnation case against Mountain Water Co. [...] Missoula Mayor John Engen and attorneys representing the city questioned the motivation of United Property Owners of Montana – a group that lists former Montana Republican Party executive director Chuck Denowh as its policy director and Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke's former communication director, Shelby DeMars, as its lobbyist." [Missoulian, [10/16/15](#)]

### Zinke Supported Greg Gianforte for Governor

"Greg Gianforte often describes founding RightNow Technologies with his wife, Susan, in an extra bedroom two decades ago. The company became a huge success and major Bozeman-area employer, and was eventually taken over by software giant Oracle. Democrats looking at Gianforte as a likely Republican candidate for governor tell a different story, one of a religious extremist too conservative for most Montanans. Gianforte took a step closer to answering the ongoing question of whether he will run on Monday, filing the paperwork that allows him to raise campaign funds. He says he's still exploring whether to run, and he's stressing his business credentials. [...] Gianforte has already picked up one endorsement. Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Montana) said through a spokeswoman Tuesday that he supports Gianforte. Sen. Steve Daines (R-Montana), a longtime associate of Gianforte's at RightNow, stopped short of an explicit endorsement." [KRTV, [8/18/15](#)]

### Zinke Took Aim at Sen. Tester for His Vote on the Iran Deal

"Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) told Breitbart News on Friday that he firmly rejects the nuclear accord with Iran, pointing out that proponents of the deal are engaging in character assassination and bully tactics. [...] Referencing the vote of a fellow Montanan—Democrat Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT), who supports the Iran deal—

Zinke added, ‘There are some in the Senate and the Obama administration who fail to realize that America has options. I am committed to exploring every one of them while leading the opposition in Congress.’ [Breitbart, [8/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Scheduled to Speak at the 2015 Mavericks Annual Conference, In Las Vegas, NV.**

[Maverick PAC USA, Accessed [7/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Campaign Operative, David Herbst Hired As State Director for Americans for Prosperity Montana**

“Conservative group Americans for Prosperity Montana has hired David Herbst as its new state director. A statement released Tuesday says Herbst most recently helped with the campaigns for Republican U.S. Sen. Steve Daines and U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke. Herbst says he’ll work to stop reckless spending, repeal regulations and make Montana a better place to do business. The organization’s statement says former director Zach Lahn’s new job will be to raise money for the national organization. Lahn led the organization’s efforts to oppose Medicaid expansion, which the legislature passed in April. He says Herbst is the right leader to build the Montana chapter and spread the word about economic freedom. The state chapter is part of a national political network backed by industrialist billionaires Charles and David Koch.” [AP, [7/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Invited Texas Republican Rep. Louie Gohmert to Speak at the 2015 Montana GOP Convention**

“During the first day of the Montana GOP convention, some Republicans called the three-way race for state chairman a sign of the party’s strength while others argued it reveals division within the ranks. [...] Also speaking will be Texas Republican Rep. Louie Gohmert, who Zinke invited to the convention to discuss grassroots activism.” [Independent Record, [6/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Was Honored As A “2014 Guardian Fund Winner.”**

“EVENT: FUNDRAISER - THE GUARDIAN FUND; LOCATION: Capitol Hill Club, 300 First Street SE, Washington, D.C. -- June 17, 2015 8:00 am SECTION: GENERAL NEWS EVENTS - FUTURES LENGTH: 43 words SUBJECT: The Guardian Fund holds a breakfast political fundraiser meeting to honor its 2014 Guardian Fund winners: Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark.; Rep. Barry Loudermilk, R-Ga.; Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y.; and Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont.” [DC Daybook - Policy & News Events, [6/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Participated in the Shakespeare Theatre Company’s Annual “Will On The Hill” Performance And Wore a Costume**

“Here in D.C. the war of sexes rages, and finds its way on to this best of stages,’ rhymed the chorus to open Shakespeare Theatre Company’s annual ‘Will on the Hill’ performance Monday night. [...] The actors enjoyed the costumes as well, with NPR’s ‘All Things Considered’ host Robert Siegel saying he felt ‘like a winged chair’ in his long robe, and Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) choosing a costume in green and gold, the colors of Whitefish High School in his district.” [The Hill, In The Know, [6/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Joined the Congressional Singapore Caucus**

“In collaboration with the 50th anniversary of Singapore’s independence, today the bipartisan Congressional Singapore Caucus was re-launched, with new co-chairs, Congressman Denny Heck (D-WA) and Congressman Bradley Byrne (R-AL). The goal of the Caucus will be to strengthen the political, military, and economic relationship between the two countries, and engage more Americans and policymakers on the promise of Singapore and Asia.” Zinke is a member of the caucus. [Office of Rep. Byrne, Press release, [6/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said the Montana Republican Party Was “Somewhat Fractured”**

“Some conservatives within the Montana Republican Party are hoping to oust the state party chairman at their annual convention in Helena later this month, and moderates aren’t sure they’ll help the chairman fight back. [...] Montana is a red state; more voters typically support the Republican presidential candidate than the Democrat. But just two of the six statewide offices up for reelection in 2016 are held by Republicans: the

attorney general's office held now by Tim Fox and Montana's U.S. House seat, held by Rep. Ryan Zinke. 'The party is great at circling the wagons and shooting in,' Zinke told the Chronicle on Friday. He'd prefer that they only shot out and will be taking that message to the convention. Zinke thinks the party needs to represent all Montana Republicans, and said he will listen to the candidates, and delegates, before making a decision on who he'll support. 'The party is somewhat fractured,' Zinke said. 'I think you need someone who can work with everyone.'" [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [6/14/15](#)]

### **Mike Jopek: Zinke's Vote Against FY 2016 Budget "Indicated There Might Be More To These Speculative Rumors"**

In May 2015, full time Whitefish farmer Mike Jopek wrote, "If political rumors come true, Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke will challenge two-term incumbent Democratic Sen. Jon Tester in the 2018 election. Zinke would likely first have to win reelection next fall and fend off any potential primary election challengers. Zinke has worked hard in Montana during the recesses to talk with statewide constituents. Two recent policies in Washington indicated that there might be more to these speculative rumors. During his campaign, Zinke made a big point to say that he supported the framework of the Republican balanced budget. Last fall's budget framework was similar to the plan Congress agreed upon, yet Zinke recently voted in opposition. The Republican budget plan calls for \$5 trillion in cuts to balance the federal budget over the decade. Benefits in programs like Medicare, Medicaid and food stamps would likely see the bulk of cuts in balancing the federal budget deficit. Following the vote, Zinke tweeted, "I just voted no on S. Con. Res. 11 –FY2016 Budget. I will not tolerate selling our #publiclands." In a statement Zinke said, "Repealing ObamaCare and balancing the budget remain on top of my list of priorities, however I will never tolerate our land being sold or transferred." [Flathead Beacon, Mike Jopek, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke's Cosp. Bill to Block States From Requiring That Foods Processed From Bioengineered Organisms Be Labeled Fueled Senate Speculation**

In May 2015, full time Whitefish farmer Mike Jopek wrote, "Another action in Washington that helped frame my attention toward a potential race between these two Montanans was Zinke's recent co-sponsorship of Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo's bill to block states from requiring that foods processed from bioengineered organisms be labeled. States like Vermont have passed laws to mandate labeling of GMO foods. Connecticut and Maine will only enact with other state support. Citizen food movements across the nation have pushed ballot initiatives for mandatory labeling, many nearly passing. Sen. Bernie Sanders from Vermont tried to again amend the federal Farm Bill to clarify a state's right to label food products containing genetically engineered materials. Tester supported the Sanders amendment. Zinke's bill ends a state's right to label food products containing bioengineered organisms. Some of these laboratory gene alterations to patented seeds hold claims to reduce carcinogens when potatoes are fried or slow browning when apples are sliced. Other seeds have genes engineered to allow growing food to tolerate direct applications of weed killers." [Flathead Beacon, Mike Jopek, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Mike Jopek: "Zinke And Tester Would Be Wise To Focus On Passing Policy That Helps People, Farmers And Eaters."**

In May 2015, full time Whitefish farmer Mike Jopek wrote, "I've talked with Zinke at several Whitefish farmers markets, served with him in past state Legislatures, and worked with him to permanently protect many acres of state public land around town. I've also served with Tester and he's been to the same markets. I've witnessed his base-building leadership style in the state Senate, worked with him to protect those same and more public lands, plus skunked him at cribbage over a beer. He'd likely challenge my memory of that big pegging loss margin. It's a long way until the midterms of 2018. Zinke and Tester would be wise to focus on passing policy that helps people, farmers and eaters. The Flathead, Montana, and the nation need leaders who govern." [Flathead Beacon, Mike Jopek, [5/13/15](#)]

### **McEwen, Co-Author of *American Sniper* Book, Traveled With Zinke As He Toured Businesses**

“Montana’s lone congressman was in western Montana Tuesday, first in Kalispell and then in Missoula, talking about how to spur the economy. Congressman Ryan Zinke (R- Montana) toured Spectrum Aquatics, which makes equipment for pools, to learn more about how the company operates. [...] Scott McEwen, who co-wrote the book *American Sniper*, was traveling with Congressman Zinke, a former Navy Seal, to Kalispell and Missoula today. McEwen did not want to be interviewed.” [KPAX, [5/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said, “There’s a Lot of Room to Improve the House Side,” When Asked If He Would Run for the Senate**

Reporter asked Zinke, “Do you ever think about jumping over to the Senate?” Zinke said, ‘I get asked that question a lot. I just want to be a really good congressman. You should look at what you are today and be the very best you can. There’s a lot of room to improve the House side.’ [New York Times, [3/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “If We Continue as a Party to Be Divided, We Will Not Win the Next Presidency Nor... the Governor’s Office.”**

“Zinke told Republicans to keep their fights inside the locker room if they want to win the governor’s seat and other state positions in 2016. ‘The time to fight is when you’re planning. When you’re on the field, it’s time to unite,’ the freshman congressman from Whitefish said. ‘If we continue as a party to be divided, we will not win the next presidency nor will we win the governor’s office.’ Zinke defeated Democrat John Lewis for Montana’s lone U.S. House seat in November after Daines left to run for U.S. Senate.” [AP, [3/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Brought Josh Mandel, Republican Ohio State Treasurer, as a Guest to Netanyahu’s Speech**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich was not the only non-congressional Ohio official in the audience for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s speech today. So was Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel, sitting in the visitor’s gallery as a guest of U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL and now a Republican congressman from Montana. [Northwest Ohio Media Group, [3/3/15](#)]

## **2014 Election for House of Representatives**

### **2014 Congressional General Election Results**

<i>CANDIDATE</i>	<i>VOTES</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE</i>
<b>Ryan Zinke (R)</b>	203,871	55.41%
John Lewis (D)	148,690	40.41%
Mike Fellows (L)	15,402	4.19%

[Montana Secretary of State]

### **Zinke: “John [Lewis] Plays The Guitar. I Waterboard.”**

“State bloggers took aim at Ehrlick again last fall when he quoted then-U.S. House candidate Ryan Zinke stating, ‘John [Lewis] plays the guitar. I waterboard.’ Ehrlick’s quotation appeared in a Sunday column two days before the election, but Zinke had actually uttered the phrase in Ehrlick’s presence while backstage at a debate two months prior. ‘One might have expected the Gazette to follow up with a story about Zinke’s actual views on waterboarding,’ David Crisp wrote on lastbestnews.com. ‘At the very least, the comment would appear to cast doubt on the political savvy of a candidate who based his entire campaign around his record of honorable military service.’ [Missoula Independent, [6/04/15](#)]

### **Zinke Released Military Records Less Than 1 Week Before Election**

In 2014, the *AP* noted, “Democrats filed a complaint against Zinke for receiving support from the political-action committee he founded, the Special Operations for America. They also called for him to release his full military records, which he did less than one week before Election Day. His records showed glowing

performance reviews with just one revealing Zinke exhibited lapses in judgment related to travel expenses.” [AP, 11/05/14]

### **Zinke Attacked for Previously Supporting Transfer of Public Lands to the State**

According to the *AP*, “The Zinke and Lewis campaigns have been shaped over issues such as managing public lands, the Affordable Care Act, energy, and women and families. Lewis has hit hard on the issue of transferring federally managed public lands to the state, in part because Zinke signed a pledge two years ago that included the idea and because the state’s Republican Party added it to their platform... Zinke has said he no longer believes in transferring lands to the state but wants to require that local governments have a say in their management.” [AP, 11/05/14]

### **Zinke Was Attacked in Mailers & Ads for Supporting Efforts to Sell Off Public Lands**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Lewis has tried to hammer on Zinke, accusing the Republican in television ads and campaign mailers of supporting efforts to sell off federal public land.” [Great Falls Tribune, 11/02/14]

### **Zinke Received an A- from the NRA**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Zinke received an A- from the [National Rifle Association (NRA).” [Great Falls Tribune, 11/02/14]

### **Zinke Claimed He Learned His Lesson After Poor Review for Expensive Travel in Military**

In 2014, the *AP* reported, “Republican U.S. House candidate Ryan Zinke said Tuesday that he learned a lesson about being accountable after being cited for lapses of judgment in a Navy evaluation. The 1999 report released by the former Navy SEAL’s campaign Monday gives Zinke declining marks in two areas related to travel expenses. Zinke greatly exceeded performance standards in four other areas.” [AP, 10/29/14]

### **Two Travel Issues Arose from 7 Year Audit**

According to the *Hungry Horse News*, “Zinke said the travel disputes occurred because his commanding officer disagreed with Zinke’s belief that Montana should be used for SEAL training. ‘I conducted site surveys to Washington and Montana,’ he said of trips taken in the 1990s. ‘My commander disagreed with my assessment, which was his right.’ The two issues arose from a related seven-year audit of his travel expenses, Zinke said. One travel discrepancy involved reimbursement of a \$211 plane ticket to Montana that Zinke said he paid back. The second involved Zinke traveling from training in Washington state to his Whitefish home and didn’t require reimbursement, Zinke campaign spokeswoman Shelby DeMars said.” [Hungry Horse News, 10/29/14]

### **Retired SEAL Questioned Zinke’s Character & Said Report ‘Killed Any Chance for Promotion’ to Captain or Admiral**

The *Hungry Horse News* continued, Retired Navy SEAL officer has questioned Zinke’s character over the travel disputes. Capt. Larry Bailey, the commanding officer of the Naval Special Warfare Center where Zinke trained, said that although Zinke had a fine career, this report killed any chance for promotion to the highest ranks of captain or admiral. ‘That moral lapse killed his career,’ Bailey said. ‘He would have been an admiral without that, without any question in my mind.’” [Hungry Horse News, 10/29/14]

### **Libertarian Said Zinke Had More in Common with NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg Than Montana**

In 2014, Libertarian Mike Fellows “said Zinke has more in common with former ‘New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg than the people of Montana’ when it comes to gun rights.” [Hungry Horse News, 10/15/14]

### **Former Captain Served with Zinke, Said He Inappropriately Used Travel Funds in the Navy**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Zinke has made his service as a Navy SEAL the central focus of his bid for the U.S. House... Retired Navy SEAL Capt. Larry W. Bailey was the former commanding officer of the Naval Special Warfare Center, where Zinke received his early SEAL training. Earlier this year, Bailey publicly accused Zinke of inappropriately using Navy travel funds for personal travel, an allegation Zinke admitted but

said was a mistake. Zinke later told *The Associated Press* the disputed travel claim was for a \$211 plane ticket to Montana when he was a junior officer. He said he paid the money back and the issue was settled.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/23/14]

### **Retired SEAL Captain Described Himself as a Conservative Republican**

The *Great Falls Tribune* noted the accusation came from “Bailey, who describes himself as conservative Republican.” Bailey said, “I believe in Ronald Reagan’s 11th Commandment (to not speak ill of fellow Republicans)... But I would rather have an honest Democrat in Congress than a dishonest Republican.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/23/14]

### **Captain Claimed the Travel Incident Was ‘Severe Enough Zinke Narrowly Avoided a Court Martial’**

The report continued, “Bailey claimed he has knowledge of at least one blemish on Zinke’s Navy record that Bailey said was severe enough Zinke narrowly avoided a court martial. According to Bailey, a June 15, 1999, fitness report from Zinke’s personnel file would clear the air surrounding Zinke’s record, and whether it is as spotless as Zinke claims. ‘There’s one fitness report, that if he would release it, would prove that he’s being persecuted, or that he’s grossly misleading the public,’ Bailey told the Libertarian blog NorthWest Liberty News in June. Bailey claimed Zinke’s former commanding officer, who is now a three-star admiral, personally told Bailey that ‘he intended that (Zinke) not get promoted. He was eased out of SEAL Team 6 because of transgressions.’ ‘It wasn’t a normal rotation,’ Bailey said in June. ‘They got him out of there. What they tried to do was let him stay 20 years in the Navy so he would get his retirement, so they weren’t going to court martial him or get him in administrative punishment and require him to leave to service.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/23/14]

### **Captain: “His Special Operations Officer Said He Wanted to Rip His Trident Off His Uniform & Throw Him Out of the Navy”**

The *Tribune* reported, “Bailey reiterated his allegations in an interview Wednesday. Speaking from North Carolina, Bailey said he spoke to three of Zinke’s superior officers, including the author of the June 1999 fitness report. ‘His special operations officer said he wanted to rip his (Zinke’s) trident off his uniform and throw him out of the Navy, he was so upset about what he had done,’ Bailey said. ‘His commanding officer was more amenable and took middle ground, not kick him out of Navy, but get him out of SEAL Team 6. He said he wrote a fitness report that was designed to specifically prevent him from getting a promotion.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/23/14]

### **Captain Did Acknowledge Zinke’s “Stellar” Service & Ability to Overcome the Report**

The report noted, “Bailey acknowledged that Zinke’s service before and after the as-yet-to-be-disclosed 1999 incident was stellar, and Zinke was able to overcome the June 1999 fitness report. Bailey said he believes Zinke might have achieved the rank of admiral ‘if he kept his nose clean.’ ‘He was a fine officer,’ Bailey said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/23/14]

### **Zinke Called Obamacare a “Sinking Ship”**

In 2014, Zinke said of Obamacare that the consensus from experts he claimed he listened to “is that it is a sinking ship that will be in Davy Jones’ locker soon.” However, Zinke said, “you don’t just jump in the ocean,” but need to transfer to a more stable vessel. [Daily Inter Lake, 10/18/14]

### **Zinke Said He Was Embarrassed by the Military Travel Reprimand**

According to the *Daily Inter Lake*, “Zinke admitted that he got in trouble and was ordered to reimburse the Navy \$211 for a one-way plane trip from Virginia to Montana in the mid-1990s. Zinke said he was scouting out potential sites for SEAL training missions and charged the Navy, but the Navy disallowed the airfare. He said he was not reprimanded but ordered to pay back the money. ‘Was I perfect?’ Zinke asked. ‘No. Was it embarrassing to me to have nine years of travel claims formally reviewed and audited? Yes. You know what, if

I were to do it again, I would have done things differently. I learned a valuable lesson. My lesson learned is you're accountable.” [Daily Inter Lake, 10/18/14]

### **Zinke Super PAC Against Obama, Was Later Hit with “Several” FEC Complaints for “Illegal Coordination”**

According to the *Daily Inter Lake*, “Zinke remained active in politics in 2012 when he helped form and chaired a super PAC known as Special Operations for America, which ran an independent expenditure campaign against President Barack Obama’s re-election. Zinke resigned as the group chairman before starting his U.S. House campaign, but several complaints to the Federal Election Commission have alleged there was illegal coordination between SOFA and Zinke’s campaign. The group has made independent expenditures in the House race. He has denied the charges, and the Federal Election Commission has not ruled yet on the complaints.” [Daily Inter Lake, 10/18/14]

### **Zinke’s Conservative Credentials Were Questioned**

According to the *Daily Inter Lake*, “Some of his primary opponents and prominent Republicans questioned Zinke’s conservative credentials and his stance on abortion, although he since has been endorsed by the National Right-to-Life Association and Montana Right-to-Life.” [Daily Inter Lake, 10/18/14]

### **Zinke Disliked Common Core, But Said He Would Support It if Local School Board Voted to Do So**

In 2014, the *Missoulian* reported, “Ryan Zinke, the Republican candidate for the U.S. House, has expressed his dislike of Common Core, though he also has said that he would support the standards if local school boards voted to do so as well. Speaking at a rally in Red Lodge on Thursday, Zinke called Common Core a government program that represents just one more federal regulation. ‘Two things made America great: innovation and the ability to think outside the box, and Common Core is destroying this,’ the *Carbon County News* quoted Zinke as saying. ‘We need a holistic approach to education or Common Core will quickly become the lowest common denominator.’” [Missoulian, 10/18/14]

### **Zinke Attacked for 2010 Letter to Obama Calling to Address Climate Change Prior to Anti-Enviro Positions**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Kathy Weber, the Lewis campaign’s communications director: ‘Sen. Zinke wrote a letter to President Obama urging him to address climate change in 2010 and today he suddenly believes humans have nothing to do with climate change.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/15/14]

### **Zinke Was Criticized for Being Endorsed by former Vice President Dick Cheney**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Montana’s Democratic Party criticized Ryan Zinke over an endorsement, tweeted via Billings-area state Rep. Tom McGillvray, from former Vice President Dick Cheney. Cheney was quoted as saying Zinke’s military knowledge was needed in Congress. Democrats claimed Zinke is turning to Cheney, who pushed for the post-Sept. 11 invasion of Iraq, for help in bailing out Zinke’s supposedly ‘floundering campaign.’ Shelby De-Mars, communications director for the Zinke campaign, said Tuesday: ‘We’re incredibly excited to have the support of former Vice President Dick Cheney.’ She said Zinke and Cheney agree on the need for a strong national defense.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/15/14]

### **Zinke Was Attacked in Ad for Supporting Selling Off Public Lands**

In 2014, Zinke’s opponent, John Lewis, aired an ad attacking Zinke on public land issues. According to the *Great Falls Tribune*, “In a 30-second TV spot released Monday afternoon, a narrator clumsily sings a political verse to the tune of Woody Guthrie’s classic ‘This Land is Your Land.’ Here’s the verse from the ad: ‘This land is your land, this land our land, but Ryan Zinke, would sell it off, man; to the highest bidder, to out-of-state-billionaires, with Zinke, less access for you and me. He sold more elk tags, to out-of-staters, and got a zero, from the Sportsmen Alliance, with Zinke, less access for you and me.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/07/14]

### **Ad Support Included Ryan Budget, 2011 Votes, 2012 Pledge**

The *Tribune* reported, “The ad, which was paid for and approved by Lewis’ campaign, cites in part Zinke’s stated support for the Ryan Budget, a handful of votes Zinke cast in the 2011 Montana Legislature, Zinke’s stated opposition to passage of the North Fork Watershed Protection Act, and Zinke’s 2012 signing of a Montana Constitutional Governance Pledge that calls for turning federal land over to the states.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/07/14]

### **Zinke Public Lands Votes**

The *Tribune* reported, “The legislative criticism centers on three bills from the 2011 session: Senate Bill 301 would have put a moratorium on the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Park’s purchase of new land, including fishing access sites, state parks and wildlife management areas. Zinke voted with Senate Republicans to pass the measure, but it died in a House committee. House Bill 209 would have eliminated a statutory appropriation for one fund and would have reallocated revenues in another fund that are used to acquire and maintain land for wildlife habitat and public access. Zinke voted with Republicans in the Senate to pass the measure, but it was vetoed by then-Gov. Brian Schweitzer. SB 400 would have allowed FWP to sell an additional 2,000 non-resident elk/deer combination licenses. A fiscal note attached to the bill projected the measure would have raised \$1,875,920 for the department, but many sportsmen’s groups opposed it because it would have resulted in up to 2,000 more non-resident hunters competing with resident hunters and would have led to more commercialization of public land hunting. Zinke voted with Senate Republicans to pass the measure, but it later died in a House committee.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/07/14]

### **Zinke Attacked in Ad for Supporting Medicare Cuts, Helping Corporations & Billionaires**

In 2014, Zinke’s opponent, John Lewis, criticized him in a TV ad “that accuses Republican , Ryan Zinke of backing a plan to cut Medicare, while protecting tax breaks for billionaires and out-of-state corporations.” According to the *Billings Gazette*, “The Lewis ad, titled ‘Likes,’ started running Thursday statewide. It’s his third TV spot of the general election campaign... The new Lewis ad shows a Helena woman trimming flowers on her porch, while also running showing a video of Zinke with a dark background. A female narrator says: ‘This is Donna Jean. And this is, Ryan Zinke. Zinke’s running for Congress on a plan to cut Donna Jean’s Medicare. Not because he dislikes her. Zinke just likes the corporations and billionaires a whole lot more. They’re just trying to buy him a seat in Congress. And he wants to give them another big tax break in return. Even at the expense of seniors like Donna Jean. Ryan Zinke is for himself. Not Montana.’” [Billings Gazette, 9/20/14]

NOTE: The ad may be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfYi3GK37Z8>  
[AP, 9/19/14]

### **Zinke Claimed to Support “Equal Pay for Equal Work”**

According to the *Billings Gazette*, “Zinke also said he supports equal pay for equal work, and that wages and job opportunities for women need to be improved.” The *Gazette* reported, “In response, his Republican opponent, Ryan Zinke, said women play an essential role in this country and he favors equal pay for equal work, and backs efforts to improve wages and job opportunities for women. [Billings Gazette, 9/20/14, 9/18/14]

### **Official Contended Zinke Made Disparaging Remarks About Indians**

According to the *Great Falls Tribune*, “An official contends Ryan Zinke recently made uncomplimentary remarks about Native Americans in Helena. Democrats claim Zinke told Republicans that ‘dependence on the government’ is too high on some reservations and that if ‘you want to feed someone, you need to teach a person how to fish.’ James Steele Jr., president of the Montana Indian Democrats Council, contended Zinke’s comments ‘promote negative stereo-types about Native Americans.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 9/17/14]

### **Zinke Criticized for Waffling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment with Guns in Schools & .50-Cal Rifles**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “The Montana Democratic Party this week responded by claiming GOP House candidate Ryan Zinke has waffled on whether guns belong in schools, and whether .50-caliber rifles are too dangerous for civilians to own.... Kathy Lewis, communications director for the Lewis campaign [said,] ‘The Montana GOP seems to have forgotten that its own leaders have been critical of Ryan Zinke for his record of waffling on the Second Amendment.’” [Great Falls Tribune, Political Pulse Column, [9/09/14](#)]

### **Zinke Attacked for Voting Against St. Legislators Disclosing Travel Costs & Payments for Meetings**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “The Lewis campaign also said Ryan Zinke, as a state senator in 2011, voted against requiring state legislators to disclose costs and payments to attend meetings and conferences. On Saturday, Zinke had this to say about Senate Bill 158: ‘I voted against the bill because it was too convoluted. All too often well meaning legislation ends up creating greater ambiguity.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 9/07/14]

### **Zinke Held \$10,000 Per Couple Fundraiser with Speaker Boehner**

According to the *Daily Inter Lake*, “a fundraiser was held on Aug. 20 for Ryan Zinke, Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, at which attendees paid \$10,000 per couple to participate in a ‘roundtable discussion’ with Zinke and House Speaker John Boehner, or \$1,000 to attend a reception with them. About 100 people attended the event at a private home in Whitefish. Zinke is quoted as saying, ‘...the makeup of the audience really represented all parts of the Republican party...’” [Daily Inter Lake, 9/02/14; Whitefish Pilot, 8/27/14]

### **May 2014: Said Republicans Have Failed to Provide a Vision**

During a May 2014 debate, Zinke said “I blame the Republican Party. We’re the ones that failed to provide a vision.” Zinke said, “Oh, I don’t blame the Democrats, not our President. I blame the Republican Party. We’re the ones that failed to provide a vision. We’re the ones that failed to provide a better future.” [YouTube, accessed [5/30/14](#)]

### **2014 Congressional Primary Election Results**

<i>CANDIDATE</i>	<i>VOTES</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE</i>
Ryan Zinke	43,766	100%

[Montana Secretary of State]

### **Endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

In May 2014, Zinke received the endorsement of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Zinke said, “The U.S. Chamber’s endorsement is in recognition of my pro-business record. Along with my pro-life endorsement by Gregg Trude of Montana Right-to-Life, and my record of supporting Second Amendment issues, all of this should address charges by some of my opponents about my Republican credentials. I’m the only candidate in this race with the leadership credentials, experience, and education to deal with the challenges facing the nation today.” [Zinke for Congress, [5/09/14](#)]

### **SOFA Ad: #Truth That Cuts Through The Lies & Attacks**

[5/23/14](#) 1:00

NARRATOR: In the race for Congress, one candidate stands out: Ryan Zinke. Former Navy SEAL with two Bronze Stars for combat in Iraq. Ryan Zinke. A strong conservative, pro-life and pro-Second Amendment. Ryan Zinke. He’ll fight for us, to cut spending, repeal Obamacare, and balance the budget. Ryan Zinke. A third generation Montanan. He’ll protect our way of life. Ryan Zinke. Endorsed by the US Chamber of Commerce. Good for jobs. Ryan Zinke. He’ll push for more coal, more oil and more gas, making our nation energy secure, boosting our state’s economy. Ryan Zinke. We’ve sent him to fight for us before, let’s send him again. Ryan Zinke, a strong leader for Montana.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the contents of this advertisement.*

### **Zinke Ad: “The Leader Montana Can Trust”**

[5/19/14](#) :30

ZINKE: I’m a third generation Montanan.

NARRATOR: Ryan Zinke is the right conservative. Pro-life. Pro-second amendment. Pro-energy development. The leader Montana can trust.

ZINKE: In the SEALs, we’re taught to lead from the front and never quit until the job is done. Isn’t that what we need in Washington right now?

Zinke: I’m Ryan Zinke and I approve this message.

### **SOFA Ad: Best Candidate for Montana**

[5/17/14](#) :15

NARRATOR: For Congress, one candidate stands out: Ryan Zinke. Navy SEAL, pro-life and pro-second amendment. Ryan Zinke a strong leader for Montana.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the content of this message.*

### **May 2014: Said He Would Run a “Positive” Campaign**

In May 2014, during a KMMS radio interview, Zinke said “we’re gonna run a positive, Reagan 11th Commandment campaign.” Zinke said, “You look at the Republican Party that circle the wagons and shoot in, and you know, our campaign is very, very positive, we hold to our word we’re gonna run a positive, Reagan 11th Commandment campaign, where we’re not going to speak ill of any other Republican because you have to show leadership by example and that’s hugely important, you know.” [YouTube, accessed [5/14/14](#)]

### **Held Campaign Event in Santa Barbara**

In May 2014, the *Helena Independent Record* reported that Zinke held a campaign fundraiser in Santa Barbara, where he wife was from. [Helena Independent Record, [5/14/14](#)]

### **Auctioned a Nemo 300 Rifle**

In 2014, Zinke’s campaign auctioned a Nemo 300 rifle.



[Facebook, accessed [5/13/14](#)]

### **2 Former Republican Chairman Came Out Against Zinke**

In May 2014, former Representative Rick Hill and State Senator John Brenden, both former Montana Republican Party chairmen, joined Miller in speaking out against Zinke. Hill said, “Ryan is trying to characterize himself as a staunch conservative and that’s just not his record. If Montanans want to nominate a quite moderate Republican, I’m OK with that. I just want to make sure they know what they’re doing.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 5/06/14]

### Zinke Radio Ad: “The Right Conservative for Montana”

[05/06/14](#) 1:00 (Radio)

NARRATOR: This is Ryan Zinke.

ZINKE: My grandmother worked her way through college and became a school teacher in a one-room schoolhouse near Ritchie, Montana. My grandfather helped build the Fort Peck Dam. That’s Montana. My dad was the youngest master plumber ever in Montana. That’s where I learned the conservative values that lead me to serve as a Navy SEAL for 23 years. I’m the only candidate for Congress who sponsored a right-to-life bill, protecting our unborn. That’s Montana. I’m a dad, trying everyday to pass those same values along to my kids. My wife and I make the right decisions about raising our kids, not the government. I learned that, in Montana.

NARRATOR: We need to send in a Montana SEAL. Ryan Zinke, he’s the right conservative for Montana.

ZINKE: I’m Ryan Zinke, candidate for U.S. Congress, and I approve this message. Paid for by Zinke for Congress.

### SOFA Ad: Maryland Values are NOT Montana Values

[5/05/14](#) :15

NARRATOR: Meet Matt Rosendale, Matt’s from Maryland. Uh, huh, the ocean and the crabs. But Matt’s running for Congress in Montana? Come on Matt, Maryland values aren’t Montana values. *Special Operations for America is responsible for the content of this message.*

### SOFA Ad: Coffee Ad

[5/05/14](#) 1:00 (Radio)

WAITRESS: What’ll you have?

COSTUMER: Coffee, please.

WAITRESS: Sure, anything else?

COSTUMER: Well, yeah...tell me what’s new in the race for Montana’s Congressional seat.

WAITRESS: Let’s see. How about the fact that one of the candidates, Matt Rosendale, isn’t from Montana? He moved here from Maryland.

COSTUMER: Matt Rosendale is from Maryland? No thank you. Which of the candidates from Montana do you like?

WAITRESS: I like Ryan Zinke.

COSTUMER: Isn’t Ryan Zinke the former Navy SEAL?

WAITRESS: Not only that. Ryan Zinke is a good conservative and a third generation Montanan. Ryan Zinke is pro-life and pro Second Amendment and Ryan Zinke will vote to appeal Obamacare.

COSTUMER: Ryan Zinke’s values are my values.

WAITRESS: Ryan Zinke also wants to make America energy independent, with more oil, more gas, and more coal. That’s good for jobs and that’s good for our national security.

COSTUMER: Okay, you’ve convinced me. I’m voting for Ryan Zinke. Now, can I get another cup of coffee?

WAITRESS: This one’s on the house.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the contents of this advertisement.*

### SOFA Ad: “A Strong Leader for Montana”

[5/05/14](#) 0:15

NARRATOR: For Congress, one candidate stands out: Ryan Zinke. Navy SEAL, a third-generation Montanan. Ryan Zinke, a strong leader for Montana.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the content of this message.*

### **Republicans Accused of Flip Flopping**

In April 2014, Ken Miller, a former Republican candidate for Governor and former Chair of the Montana Republican Party sent an email to his supporters, which detailed why Republicans should not vote for Zinke. Miller said, “As a State Senator, there is just one consistent thread throughout his tenure: inconsistency. He asserted himself as a John Kerry protégé flip-flop-flip-flop-flip-flopper. Wall Street fat cats and DC big wigs are pumping hundreds of thousands of dollars of outside money to ‘re-brand’ him.” [Intelligent Discontent, 4/29/14]

### **Zinke Ad: “The Right Conservative for Montana”**

[4/28/14](#) :30

(Intense music, visual of Navy symbols)

ZINKE: My grandmother left home when she was 14, earned her way through college, and became a frontier schoolhouse teacher near Ritchie, Montana. That’s America. Her conservative values of self-reliance, sacrifice, and service to others are what inspired me to serve America and Montana as a Navy SEAL.

NARRATOR: Ryan Zinke, he’s the right conservative for Montana.

ZINKE: I’m Ryan Zinke and I approve this message.

### **SOFA Ad: Stubblefield Endorsement**

[4/17/14](#) 1:00 (Radio)

STUBBLEFIELD: I’m Gary Stubblefield, a fifth generation Montanan and a former U.S. Navy SEAL Commander. I want to speak with you about the Montana Congressional race. These are perilous times for America. President Obama’s weak and indecisive foreign policy has emboldened some of the world’s worse actors in places like Russia, Syria, North Korea and Iran. The actions we take now will determine whether America remains the world’s super power, able to preserve for our children and grandchildren the prosperity we’ve known. That’s why I’m voting for Ryan Zinke for Congress. Ryan Zinke is a former Navy SEAL with two Bronze Stars for combat in Iraq. Ryan Zinke exemplifies the sacrifice and character we look for in our public leaders. Ryan Zinke believes in a strong military. Ryan Zinke understands America’s strength is the best friend that peace has ever known. I ask that you join me in supporting Ryan Zinke for Congress, because it’s time we restored America’s leadership position in the world.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the contents of this advertisement.*

### **2014: Said “Republicans “Haven’t Fixed” Washington**

In March 2014, Zinke, when referring to Washington, said that “the Democrats haven’t fixed it, the Republicans haven’t fixed it.” Zinke said, “The Democrats haven’t fixed it, the Republicans haven’t fixed it, the tea party hasn’t fixed it, and I guess that’s why I’m running. In the military, when all else fails, you send in the Navy SEALs. I think it’s time to send the SEALs to Washington.” [Montana Standard, 3/05/14]

### **2014: Said Republican Party Did Not Have a Vision**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said “part of it is the problem with the Republican Party, we don’t have vision.” Zinke said, “Part of it is the problem with the Republican Party, we don’t have vision. Tell me what the Republican Party vision is for immigration? Tell me what the Republican Party vision is for energy? Let’s pick a good one, debt reduction.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Zinke: “Last Time Our Party Had Vision was Newt Gingrich”**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said “probably the last time our party had vision was Newt Gingrich. Zinke said, “Probably the last time our party had vision was Newt Gingrich.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Held Fundraiser in Carpinteria, CA**

On February 26, 2014, Zinke held a fundraiser in Carpinteria, California, which was advertised by the Ventura County Tea Party. [Ventura County Tea Party, accessed [5/15/14](#)]

### **Endorsed by Former U.S. Senator Conrad Burns**

In February 2014, former U.S. Senator Conrad Burns endorsed Zinke. Burns said in a statement, “Ryan Zinke is a man of honor and has a proven track record of distinguished military and public service. I am proud to support him in his candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives.” [Zinke for Congress, [2/18/14](#)]

### **CBS News: Called Burns “Tainted,” Connected to Jack Abramoff**

In a 2007 article, CBS News called Conrad Burns “tainted” for his ties to lobbyists, particularly Jack Abramoff. [CBS News, [1/10/07](#)]

### **Zinke Video: “Montana’s SEAL” – Zinke for Congress**

[2/07/14](#) 4:11

ZINKE: Our President said you could keep your insurance and your doctor. That was a lie. Benghazi. A cover-up and an inexcusable loss of American heroes. The IRS and NSA targeted Americans and then tried to hide it. A Congress that is loathed by our country. Spending and a 17 trillion dollar debt that is out of control. Government that is no longer trusted and is intruding on our lives and suffocating business. This isn't the America I grew up in and it's sure not the America I'm leaving for my wife, children, and grand kids.

NARRATOR: When America has missions that cannot fail, we spend in the Navy SEALs. Well, America's failing this time. We need to send in a Montana SEAL.

ZINKE: My grandmother left home at the age of 14, graduated college and became a frontier schoolhouse teacher during the Great Depression outside of Ritchie, Montana. That's America. My grandfather helped build the Fort Peck Dam. My father was the youngest master plumber in Montana's history at 17. That's America. I grew up in a small Montana railroad and timber town and I never forgot my grandmother telling me over and over that hard work and determination create opportunities and success. I was a high school president and we went undefeated our senior year in football, won the state championship. America. I served 23 years as a Navy SEAL and twice was Commander at SEAL Team SIX. I commanded in Iraq, Kosovo, and Bosnia and received two Bronze Stars. My daughter became a Navy diver and married a Navy SEAL. That's America.

I was elected to the Montana State Senate, never bowed to pressure, and championed education, conservative family values, small business, and solid, good paying jobs. That's the conservative America I grew up in, that's the America we need to return to. We need to stop America's fall and restore and restore American exceptionalism, show the world that we're still compassionate and strong, that we never bow, never apologize.

We need to honor our commitments to our veterans, to our elderly. Keep our word and lead by example, to show what truth, grace, and honor look like. Energy independence must be a priority for both national security and economic certainty. Never again should our sons and daughters be placed in harm's way for foreign oil or lose jobs at home because it's too expensive to make something in America. Let's get the government out of our business and unleash the true power of American industry. That means jobs.

Letting the private sector work again. The American Dream of having a good job, owning a home, and sending the kids to college, must be real again. Let's abandon Obamacare and find a fix for health care that lets us keep our doctor and our existing insurance if we choose. Less politics, more leadership, with a heavy dose of my grandmother's hard-work ethic and determination. Truth, grace, and honor back in the halls of our Capitol, so that when the American flag waves, it means something to the world.

Washington can be fixed. I ask for your support, your vote, and your prayers. May God bless America and all who defend her.

I'm Ryan Zinke and I approve this message.

### **Said He Would Not Engage in Negative Campaigning**

In January 2014, speaking at Hometown Helena, Zinke said his campaign would not engage in negative campaigning and that he would be “the happy candidate.” Zinke said, “And a run for politics is an ugly business. We’re going to be the happy candidate. We’re going to run with Reagan’s 11<sup>th</sup> commandment, not going to say anything ill about fellow Republicans, we’re not going to hit the Democrat, we’re going to go on American values. If it’s a football game, if you watch football, we’re going to go right off, right tackle; a little right of center, but not on the sidelines.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

### **Distributed Items that Looked Like 50-Cal Bullets at Event**

In January 2014, the *Bigfork Eagle* reported that Zinke handed out 50 caliber bullets to the four men who sponsored his event in Bigfork. Zinke later clarified that the bullets were actually pens.



[Bigfork Eagle, [4/25/14](#)]

### **Called Newt Gingrich a “Senior Advisor” to the Campaign**

In January 2014, Zinke called Newt Gingrich a “senior advisor to the campaign.” Zinke said, “He is a senior advisor to the campaign.” [Bigfork Eagle, 1/30/14]

### **One Week Later: Clarified that Gingrich Was Not Actually a Paid Advisor**

One week later, Zinke clarified that Gingrich was not actually a paid advisor to his campaign. Zinke said, “Newt Gingrich and I have had multiple conversations back and forth and we’ve exchanged multiple e-mails. Newt is the one who advised me that Washington can be fixed. And he’s the one who convinced me that Washington can be fixed.” [Daily Inter Lake, 2/03/14]

### **Spent 1st 2 Mos of Campaign “Touring Around the Country”**

At a Meet and Greet in January 2014, Zinke said he “spent the first two months [of his campaign] touring the country.” Zinke said, “I spent the first two months touring around the country and talking to leaders in industry, including the railroad, and went to the top. I went to people that have an interest in Montana.” [YouTube, HYPERLINK "<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv6KpJJyhpc&feature=youtu.be>" [1/28/14](#)]

### **User Named “Zinkecampaign” Made 22 Edits to Wikipedia Page**

In January 2014, a user named “Zinkecampaign” made 22 edits to Zinke’s Wikipedia page, changing the language to be similar to Zinke’s campaign website. [Wikipedia, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **SOFA Ad: Information Helpline**

[12/02/13](#) 1:00 (radio)

(Phone rings)

WOMAN: Information helpline.

CALLER: I’m calling about Montana’s Congressional election. Who’s running?

WOMAN: Oh, the usual crowd. But there is one person that stands out, Ryan Zinke.

CALLER: Really? What can you tell me about him?

WOMAN: Ryan Zinke is a third generation Montanan. A conservative Republican who believes in more jobs, balanced budgets, and lower debt.

CALLER: So far, so good.

WOMAN: That's not all. Ryan Zinke is a former Navy SEAL Commander, who received two Bronze Stars for combat in Iraq.

CALLER: A Navy SEAL? You don't see that every day.

WOMAN: Ryan Zinke was assigned to SEAL Team Six, one of the most respected military units in the world.

CALLER: Impressive. Where does he stand on the issues?

WOMAN: Ryan Zinke will stop Obamacare, protect our right to bear arms, and fight to make America energy independent.

CALLER: Wow. A Navy SEAL who shares my values.

WOMAN: I told you he's special. Ryan Zinke will be a strong leader in Congress for Montana's families.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the contents of this advertisement.*

### **Zinke: "For Montana I Think I am Just Right"**

In October 2013, while announcing his campaign for Congress, Zinke said, "for Montana, I think I am just right." Zinke said, "For the extreme right, I am probably not conservative enough. For the extreme left I am probably too conservative. For Montana I think I am just right." [AP, 11/03/13]

### **Zinke: "We Are in a Crisis of Trust"**

In October 2013, while announcing his campaign for Congress, Zinke said "we are in a crisis of trust." Zinke said, "We are in a crisis of trust. As a 23-year veteran of the Navy SEALs, I can attest that as a nation it's inconceivable that we lose trust in our government. How do we restore faith in our government?" [Daily Inter Lake, 10/21/13]

### **Filed Statement of Candidacy**

On October 21, 2013, Zinke filed his Statement of Candidacy for Montana's At-Large Seat. Zinke said, "Honestly, I think everyone is just frustrated. There doesn't seem to be any solutions. I think less politics and more leadership is needed." [Federal Election Commission, [10/21/13](#); Daily Inter Lake, 10/21/13]

### **Announced Formation of an Exploratory Committee**

On October 14, 2013, Zinke announced the formation of an exploratory committee for the MT-AL race on his Twitter feed. [Twitter, [10/14/13](#)]

### **October 13, 2013: Afghanistan & Iraq Veterans for Congress Continued "Draft Zinke" Effort**

On October 13, 2013, the Afghanistan & Iraq Veterans for Congress released, and Special Operations for America shared, "Draft SEAL TEAM SIX Vet for US House" to get supporters to "stand behind his candidacy."

#### **Statement from AIVC Founder Kieran Michael Lalor on AIVC's Draft Zinke Efforts**

There is an incredible opportunity RIGHT NOW to elect a true leader to the United States House of Representatives if we act quickly. We have the opportunity to send a Former Commander at SEAL TEAM SIX to help clean up Washington.

I am pleased to announce an effort led by Afghanistan and Iraq Vets for Congress (AIVC) to draft Ryan Zinke, CMDR USN SEAL (retired) for the United States House in Montana's only US House seat. Montana is traditionally a red state that Mitt Romney won by 14 points. The time is NOW to draft a real leader.

(See Full Zinke Bio Below)

Since 2008 AIVC has helped dozens of veterans win Congressional primary and general elections. The mission is to elect leaders who have the courage to put country above self and party politics. Join AIVC in rallying behind Commander Zinke.

The first step is sending him a strong message that we stand behind his candidacy. Please take the time to do the following to make sure he knows that a swell of support is rising behind him:

- Like and Message him on his Facebook Page
- Reply to AIVC so we can tally and relay your message of support
- Forward this message to friends and family that want to see a change in Washington

Our nation needs tried and tested veteran leadership in the US House, not another career politician. Show your support today!" [Facebook, [10/13/13](#)]

#### **April 2014: PAC No Longer Active**

According to an April 9, 2014, article in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, the founder of Afghanistan & Iraq Veterans for Congress PAC was no longer active. The founder said, "I am a busy guy with four kids. There are not enough hours in the day. It was a volunteer project and we started to wind it down last spring. It's finally wound down now." [Poughkeepsie Journal, 4/09/14]

#### **PAC Only Contributed to Two Candidates**

According to an April 9, 2014, article in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, the PAC only contributed to two candidates, \$4,000 to Zinke and \$5,000 to Michigan Republican Kerry Bentivolio. [Poughkeepsie Journal, 4/09/14]

#### **October 11, 2013: SOFA Started a "Draft Zinke" Effort on Facebook**

On October 11, 2013, Special Operations for America released a photo which stated "Draft Zinke for U.S. Congress. American leadership. Like and share to draft Ryan Zinke for America." [Facebook, [10/11/13](#)]

#### **Sept. 2013: Resigned as Chairman of SOFA PAC**

On September 30, 2013, Zinke announced over Facebook that he was stepping down as "volunteer Chairman" of his super PAC, Special Operations for America. Zinke wrote, "For over a year, I have been honored to serve as your volunteer Chairman and help champion the important mission of defending our Constitutional freedoms and the values that have made America the greatest nation on earth. Effective immediately, I am stepping down, as Chairman and new leadership will take the helm to steer the future of for Special Operations for America. Thank you for the opportunity to serve." [Facebook, [9/30/13](#)]

#### **Spoke in LA at the David Horowitz Freedom Center**

On September 11, 2013, Zinke spoke at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. [EventBrite, accessed [5/15/14](#)]

#### **Claimed He Was Not an Establishment Candidate**

In July 2013, while debating running for Montana's House seat, Zinke said "I'm not an establishment candidate." Zinke said, "If nothing else, I'm not an establishment candidate. I'm a Ronald Reagan, Teddy Roosevelt, blue-collar hard-working candidate, I'm proud of my party, but I will read the bills." [Montana Standard, 7/23/13]

#### **June 2013: Considered Running for U.S. Senate**

In June 2013, Zinke said that he might consider a run for U.S. Senate if prominent Montana Republicans did not run. Zinke said, "I am hoping for a Marc Racicot or a Steve Daines. I really hope Marc steps up and runs. I think he is victorious against any candidate. And I think Steve Daines is one of the best candidates in office I have seen in a long time." [Whitefish Pilot, 6/12/13]

#### **Spoke at Flathead Valley Republican Party Annual Dinner**

In April 2013, Zinke spoke at the Flathead Valley Republican Party's annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner. [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/13]

#### **2012 Primary Election for Lieutenant Governor**

## 2012 Governor/Lt. Governor Primary Election Results\*

\*Zinke ran for the lieutenant governor on a ticket with Neil Livingstone running for governor.

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>VOTES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Bob Fanning & Joel Boniek	3,087	3.26%
<b>Rick Hill &amp; Jon Sonju</b>	46,802	49.40%
Neil C. Livingstone & Ryan Zinke	12,038	12.71%
Jim Lynch & Al Olszewski	8,323	8.78%
Ken Miller & Bill Gallagher	24,496	25.85%

[Montana Secretary of State]

### 2012: Placed Fifth in Republican Primary

On June 5, 2012 Republican primary, Zinke and Livingstone placed fifth, receiving 12,038 votes. [Montana Secretary of State, accessed 5/15/14]

### Pledged No Paycheck until 1,000 New Jobs Created

In May 2012, Zinke and Livingstone each pledged not to take a state paycheck until they had created 1,000 new private sector jobs. Zinke said, "There's a difference between saying it and doing it. There's a difference between having done it and having been a recycled politician and not doing it when you had a chance." [Billings Gazette, 5/09/12]

### Livingstone Claimed He "Dined at Gangster Clubs in Moscow"

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he "dined at gangster clubs in Moscow and in the back rooms of Georgian and Uzbek restaurants with members of the Russian Mafia." [Mother Jones, [3/27/14](#)]

### Livingstone Claimed He "Been Paid in Stacks of \$100 Bills By Clients"

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had "been paid in stacks of \$100 bills by clients." [Mother Jones, [3/27/14](#)]

### Livingstone Said He "Met with Terrorists in Their Jail Cells in Turkey"

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had "met with terrorists in their jail cells in Turkey and over drinks high above Moscow in the Ukraina Hotel and at the Ritz in Paris." [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### Livingstone Said He Was Subpoenaed "Incorrectly" for Involvement in Iran-Contra

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had "been subpoenaed, incorrectly, for gun running in Central America and, again incorrectly, for involvement in the Iran-Contra affair." [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### Livingstone Said He "Attended Business Meetings in Corporate Board Rooms" in Wall Street

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had "attended business meetings in corporate board rooms high over Wall Street, in dark alleys, aboard private jets, in seedy bars, palaces, bank vaults, on factory floors, and in Hillsborough Castle, the Queen's residence in Northern Ireland." [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### Livingstone Claimed He "Been Arrested, Jailed, and Interrogated in Libya"

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had "been arrested, jailed, and interrogated in Libya." [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### Livingstone Claimed He "Bent an Elbow with Old Lefties and Sinn Fein"

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had "bent an elbow with old lefties and Sinn Fein in the 'Kremlin Bar' in the bowels of the House of Commons." [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He Had “Been Trapped in Montenegro ... with Milosevic” on our Heels**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “been trapped in Montenegro with a former Navy SEAL with Milosevic hot on our heels.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He “Been on the Run in Colombia with Cases of Electronic Equipment”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “been on the run in Colombia with cases of electronic equipment and a 46-foot long antennae.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He Had “Been Stalked by Terrorist and Nazis in Argentina”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “been stalked by terrorists and Nazis in Argentina.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He Had “Explored the North Korean Tunnels Beneath the DMZ”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “explored the North Korean tunnels beneath the DMZ.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He Had “a Drink with Petit Pierre”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “stayed in Haiti’s legendary Hotel Oloffson and had a drink with Petit Pierre while voodoo drums echoed in the hills above.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Planned to Take “Aim At Regulation”**

According to a March 12, 2012, screenshot of their website, Zinke and Livingstone planned to take “aim at regulation.”



[Internet Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Claimed He Served as a Liaison for the U.S.**

In March 2012, Livingstone said that he “served as a liaison for my government.” Livingstone said, “Without going into detail that I can’t, I have served as a liaison for my government and others in terms of dealing with most of the difficult people on Earth. There is a necessity to work with some of the bad guys in the world. You are not going to find these people in church or wherever.” [AP, 3/11/12]

### **Livingstone Offered to Rescue Libyan Dictator for \$10M**

In November 2011, the *New York Times* reported that Livingstone was part of a group that offered a \$10 million consulting fee to begin negotiations with Qaddafi’s representatives. The group said they promised to assist in freeing billions of dollars of Libyan assets by having the government comply with UN resolutions. [New York Times, [11/17/11](#)]

### **Livingstone Said the Goal Was “to Get the Qaddafis Out of There as Fast as Possible”**

Livingstone claimed the group’s goal was to “get the Qaddafis out of there as fast as possible.” Livingstone said, “The idea was to find them an Arabic-speaking sanctuary and let them keep some money, in return for

getting out [...] Our whole goal was to get the Qaddafis out of there as fast as possible.” [New York Times, [11/17/11](#)]

### **Gov. Candidate Neil Livingstone Announced as Running Mate**

In July 2011, Neil Livingstone, a Republican gubernatorial candidate and national security consultant, announced Zinke as his running mate. In his kickoff, Livingstone pledged to “abolish the state corporate income tax.” Livingstone said, “We’re going to work to abolish the state corporate income tax and the [business] equipment tax. [...] We want to provide tax breaks for companies that come to Montana and make this an inviting regulatory environment for them.” [Hotline, 7/11/11]

### **Zinke Hit a Supporter’s Car**

In July 2011, at a campaign stop with Livingstone, Zinke was attempting to show off a 38-foot recreational vehicle with large photos of Zinke and Livingstone on the outside. Zinke was unable to stop the RV and ran into a supporter’s 1964 Chevrolet Camaro convertible. [Billings Gazette, 7/10/11]

### **2009-2012: Member of the Montana State Senate**

From January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2012, Zinke was a member of the Montana State Senate. The Senate met biennially for 90 days and legislators only met in between sessions if assigned to an interim committee. Most senators have an office in the Capitol building only during session and do not have personal staff unless they are hired independently. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

### **Montanans for Fair Taxation PAC Ran Ads Criticizing Zinke**

In April 2011, Montanans for Fair Taxation PAC sponsored radio advertisements criticizing Zinke. The ad accused Zinke of making a “backroom deal with Democrats to raise taxes and redistribute funds from our rural schools.” [Independent Record, 4/18/11]

### **Zinke Selected for 3 Committees in 2011**

In January 2011, was selected to the Education and Cultural Resources Committee, which he was the Chair, the Finance and Claims Committee, and the Highways and Transportation Committee. [State Senate Journal, [1/03/11](#)]

### **Appointed to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region**

On April 30, 2009, Zinke, as well as State Senator Kim Gillan were appointed to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER). The PNWER synchronized the efforts of neighboring states to promote greater regional collaboration to enhance competitiveness in domestic and international markets. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

### **Appointed to the Workforce Investment Board**

On April 30, 2009, Zinke, as well as State Senator Kim Gillan were appointed to the Workforce Investment Board, which provided guidance and oversight to Montana’s two local Workforce Investment Boards. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

### **Appointed to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee**

On April 29, 2009, Zinke, as well as Senators Jim Keane, Ken Hansen, and Roy Brown, were appointed to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee. The Economic Affairs Interim Committee had administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation and monitoring responsibilities for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor and Industry, Livestock, Office of the State Auditor and Insurance Commissioner as well as the Governor’s Office of Economic Development. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

### **Zinke Recommended to Serve on 3 Committees in 2009**

On January 5, 2009, Zinke was recommended to serve on the Education and Cultural Resources Committee, the Finance and Claims Committee, and the Highways and Transportation Committee. [Senate Journal, [1/05/09](#)]

### **January 2009: Took Official Oath as State Senator**

On January 5, 2009, Zinke took his official oath of office for the 61<sup>st</sup> Legislature. [Senate Journal, [1/05/09](#)]

### **2008 Campaign for State Senate**

#### **Used Arena Communications and Political Ink for Direct Mail**

In his 2008 election, Zinke used Arena Communications and Political Ink for his direct mail. Zinke used Public Opinion Strategies for his polling. [Campaigns & Elections, 12/08]

### **2008 St. Senate General Election Results**

<i>CANDIDATE</i>	<i>VOTES</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE</i>
<b>Ryan Zinke (R)</b>	5,498	54.60%
Brittany MacLean (D)	4,571	45.40%

[Montana Secretary of State]

### **Zinke: “You Need to Represent Both Political Parties”**

In September 2008, while running for State Senate, Zinke said that “you need to represent both political parties.” Zinke said, “I was never raised blue or red. I was always a Montanan. When you represent the interests of the valley, you need to represent both political parties.” [States News Service, 9/08/08]

### **Beat Democrat Brittany MacLean for State Senate Seat**

In his 2008 election for State Senate, Zinke beat Brittany MacLean, a widow and mother of four, 5,454 to 4,544. [Montana Republican Party, 11/06/08; Montana Republican Party 9/08/08]

### **2008 St. Senate Primary Election Results**

<i>CANDIDATE</i>	<i>VOTES</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE</i>
Suzanne Brooks	641	30.63%
<b>Ryan Zinke</b>	1452	69.37%

[Montana Secretary of State]

### **Won Republican Primary 69% to 31%**

In June 2008, Zinke beat Suzanne Brooks, 69 percent to 31 percent, in a vote of 1,448 to 639, in the Republican primary for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District’s State Senate seat. [Great Falls Tribune, 6/05/08]

### **Filed Declaration for Nomination**

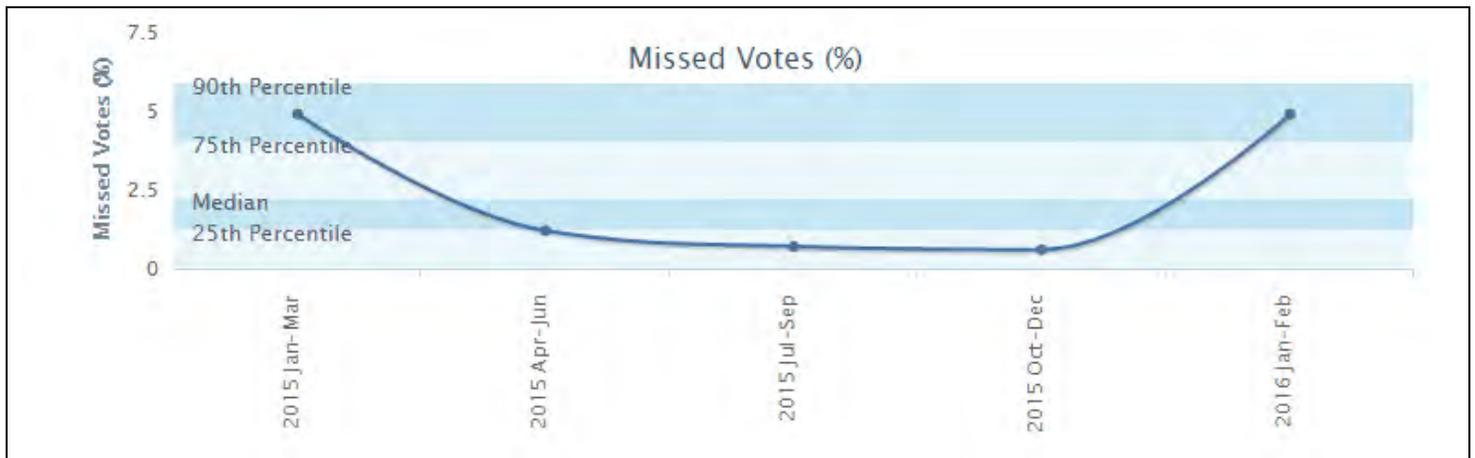
On March 7, 2008, Zinke filed his Declaration for Nomination for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District’s State Senate seat. [Declaration for Nomination, 3/07/08]

## ATTENDANCE & EFFECTIVENESS

- ✓ Zinke missed 2.2% of votes in Congress (about average).
- ✓ He was ranked 131st highest in the House for bills introduced.
- ✓ His leadership score was 87th highest in the House.
- ✓ The number of cosponsors on his bills ranked 149th highest in the House.
- ✓ He was ranked the 17th most conservative member of the House, in the most conservative 5%.
- ✓ His bills were in the lowest 50% of powerful cosponsors for House Freshmen – a measure of the likeliness of the bill to move forward.
- ✓ He was also in the lowest 50% of House Republicans for writing bipartisan bills, and the lowest 25% for joining bipartisan bills.
- ✓ Only one of Zinke’s bills came to a committee vote in 2015, and none of his bills have become law.
- ✓ He received zero points for transparency.

### Zinke Missed 2.2% of Votes in Congress

From January 2015 to February 2016, Zinke missed 16 of 785 roll call votes, or 2.0 percent. This is on par with the median of 2.2 percent among the lifetime records of representatives currently serving.



[GovTrack.U.S., accessed 2/22/16]

<i>TIME PERIOD</i>	<i>VOTES ELIGIBLE</i>	<i>MISSED VOTES</i>	<i>PERCENT</i>	<i>PERCENTILE</i>
2015 Jan-Mar	144	7	4.90%	79th
2015 Apr-Jun	244	3	1.20%	50th
2015 Jul-Sep	139	1	0.70%	34th

2015 Oct-Dec	177	1	0.60%	30th
2016 Jan-Feb	81	4	4.90%	77th

[GovTrack.U.S, accessed 2/22/16]

## Zinke Was Ranked 14<sup>th</sup> Highest for Working with the Senate

### Working with the Senate

**1<sup>st</sup>** highest among **House Freshmen**

The House and Senate often work on the same issue simultaneously by introducing companion bills in each chamber. **6** of Zinke's bills and resolutions had a companion bill in the Senate. Working with a sponsor in the other chamber makes a bill more likely to be passed by both the House and Senate.

Those bills were: [H.R. 286: Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa ...](#); [H.R. 577: To require the Secretary of ...](#); [H.R. 1522: To amend the Internal Revenue ...](#); [H.R. 2080: To reinstate and extend the ...](#); [H.R. 2081: To extend the deadline for ...](#); [H.R. 3867: Clean Water for Rural Communities ...](#)

compared to...	rank	min	max
House Freshmen	1 <sup>st</sup> highest out of 64	0	6 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	8 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 8) out of 247	0	10 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	13 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 12) out of 385	0	10 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	14 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 13) out of 440	0	10 bills <a href="#">View All</a>

Companion bills are those that are identified as "identical" by Congress's Congressional Research Service.

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke Ranked 131<sup>st</sup> Highest for Bills Introduced

### Bills Introduced

**2<sup>nd</sup>** highest among **House Freshmen**; tied with 1 other

Zinke introduced **13** bills and resolutions in 2015. [View Bills »](#)

compared to...	rank	min	max
House Freshmen	2 <sup>nd</sup> highest (tied w/ 1) out of 64	0	16 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	68 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 18) out of 247	0	46 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	120 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 19) out of 385	0	65 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	131 <sup>st</sup> highest (tied w/ 23) out of 440	0	65 bills <a href="#">View All</a>

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke's Leadership Score Was 87<sup>th</sup> Highest

# Leadership Score

**4<sup>th</sup>** highest among **House Freshmen**

Our unique leadership analysis looks at who is cosponsoring whose bills. A higher score shows a greater ability to get cosponsors on bills.

For more, see [our methodology](#). Note that because on this page only legislative activity in 2015 is considered, the leadership score here may differ from Zinke's score elsewhere on GovTrack.

<i>compared to...</i>	<i>rank</i>		
House Freshmen	4 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 64		<a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	75 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 247		<a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	79 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 385		<a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	87 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 440		<a href="#">View All</a>

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke's # of Cosponsors Ranked 149<sup>th</sup> Highest

# Cosponsors

**4<sup>th</sup>** highest among **House Freshmen**

Zinke's bills and resolutions had **202** cosponsors in 2015. Securing cosponsors is an important part of getting support for a bill, although having more cosponsors does not always mean a bill will get a vote.

[View Bills »](#)

<i>compared to...</i>	<i>rank</i>	<i>min</i>	<i>max</i>	
House Freshmen	4 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 64	0		347 cosponsors <a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	78 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 247	0		985 cosponsors <a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	137 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 385	0		1,266 cosponsors <a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	149 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 440	0		1,266 cosponsors <a href="#">View All</a>

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke's Missed Votes Ranked 108<sup>th</sup> Lowest

### Missed Votes

highest **30%** among **House Freshmen**; tied with 3 others

Zinke missed **1.7%** of votes (12 of 704 votes) in 2015. [View Zinke's Profile »](#)

compared to...	rank	min	max
House Freshmen	15 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 3) out of 62	0 	16% of votes <a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	176 <sup>th</sup> lowest (tied w/ 10) out of 378	0 	24% of votes <a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	208 <sup>th</sup> lowest (tied w/ 11) out of 433	0 	24% of votes <a href="#">View All</a>

The Speaker of the House is not included in this statistic (see the notes at the very bottom of the page for why), and the delegates from the five island territories and the District of Columbia are also not included because they were not eligible to vote in any roll call votes.

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke Labeled the 17<sup>th</sup> Most Conservative (by Cosp.), 3<sup>rd</sup> Most Conservative House Freshman, Most Conservative 5%

### Ideology Score

most conservative (by cosponsorship) **5%** among **All Representatives**

Our unique ideology analysis assigns a score to Members of Congress according to their legislative behavior by how similar the pattern of bills and resolutions they cosponsor are to other Members of Congress.

For more, see [our methodology](#). Note that because on this page only legislative activity in 2015 is considered, the ideology score here may differ from Zinke's score elsewhere on GovTrack.

compared to...	rank		
House Freshmen	3 <sup>rd</sup> most conservative (by cosponsorship) out of 64		<a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	17 <sup>th</sup> most conservative (by cosponsorship) out of 247		<a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	17 <sup>th</sup> most conservative (by cosponsorship) out of 385		<a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	17 <sup>th</sup> most conservative (by cosponsorship) out of 440		<a href="#">View All</a>

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke Cosponsored 115<sup>th</sup> Highest # of Bills

### Bills Cosponsored

highest **10%** among **House Republicans**

Zinke cosponsored **232** bills and resolutions introduced by other Members of Congress. Cosponsorship shows a willingness to work with others to advance policy goals. [View Cosponsored Bills »](#)

compared to...	rank	min	max
House Freshmen	8 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 64	21	343 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	23 <sup>rd</sup> highest out of 247	4	413 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	104 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 385	4	651 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	115 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 1) out of 440	4	651 bills <a href="#">View All</a>

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke's Bills Were in the Lowest 50% of Powerful Cosponsors for House Freshmen

### Powerful Cosponsors

lowest **50%** among **House Freshmen**; tied with 19 others

1 of Zinke's bills and resolutions in 2015 had a cosponsor who was a chair or ranking member of a committee that the bill was referred to. Getting support from committee leaders on relevant committees is a crucial step in moving legislation forward.

Those bills were: [H.Res. 553: Urging the President and the ...](#)

compared to...	rank	min	max
House Freshmen	21 <sup>st</sup> lowest (tied w/ 19) out of 64	0	7 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	55 <sup>th</sup> lowest (tied w/ 65) out of 247	0	14 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	78 <sup>th</sup> lowest (tied w/ 86) out of 385	0	16 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	95 <sup>th</sup> lowest (tied w/ 98) out of 440	0	16 bills <a href="#">View All</a>

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke Was in the Lowest 50% of House Republicans for Writing Bipartisan Bills

### Writing Bipartisan Bills

lowest **50%** among **House Republicans**; tied with 5 others

Zinke tends to gather cosponsors only on one side of the aisle. **38%** of Zinke's 13 bills and resolutions had both a Democratic cosponsor and a Republican cosponsor in 2015.

compared to...	rank	min	max
House Freshmen	4 <sup>th</sup> lowest out of 8	8 	77% of bills <a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	40 <sup>th</sup> lowest (tied w/ 5) out of 105	5 	92% of bills <a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	73 <sup>rd</sup> highest (tied w/ 6) out of 177	0 	92% of bills <a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	86 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 6) out of 197	0 	92% of bills <a href="#">View All</a>

Only Members of Congress who sponsored more than 10 bills and resolutions are included in this statistic.

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke Was in the Lowest 25% for Joining Bipartisan Bills

### Joining Bipartisan Bills

lowest **25%** among **All Representatives**

Of the 232 bills that Zinke cosponsored, **7%** were introduced by someone other than a Republican. [View Cosponsored Bills »](#)

compared to...	rank	min	max
House Freshmen	22 <sup>nd</sup> lowest out of 64	0 	65% of bills <a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	88 <sup>th</sup> lowest out of 246	0 	50% of bills <a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	83 <sup>rd</sup> lowest out of 383	0 	60% of bills <a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	89 <sup>th</sup> lowest out of 438	0 	72% of bills <a href="#">View All</a>

Only Democratic and Republican Members of Congress who cosponsored more than 10 bills and resolutions are included in this statistic.

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke Introduced 1 Bill in 2015 That Got a Committee Vote

### Bills Out of Committee

Most bills and resolutions languish in committee without any action. Zinke introduced **1** bill and resolution in 2015 that got a committee vote sending it to the floor for further consideration.

Those bills were: [H.R. 2358: Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection ...](#)

compared to...	rank	min	max
House Freshmen	10 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 22) out of 64	0	7 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	77 <sup>th</sup> lowest (tied w/ 84) out of 247	0	12 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	90 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 122) out of 385	0	12 bills <a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	97 <sup>th</sup> highest (tied w/ 139) out of 440	0	12 bills <a href="#">View All</a>

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke Held No Leadership Positions

### Committee Positions

Zinke held a leadership position on **0** committees and **0** subcommittees, as either a chair (majority party) or ranking member (minority party), at the end of the session. For comparison to other Members of Congress, we assigned a score giving five points for each full committee leadership position and one point for each subcommittee leadership position. [View Zinke's Profile »](#)

compared to...	rank	min	max
House Freshmen	lowest along with 35 others out of 64	0	1 points <a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	lowest along with 94 others out of 247	0	11 points <a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	lowest along with 139 others out of 385	0	11 points <a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	lowest along with 168 others out of 440	0	11 points <a href="#">View All</a>

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke Introduced 0 Bills That Became Law in 2015

### Laws Enacted

Zinke introduced **0** bills that became law in 2015. Keep in mind that it takes a law to repeal a law. Very few bills ever become law. [View Enacted Bills »](#)

<i>compared to...</i>	<i>rank</i>	<i>min</i>	<i>max</i>	
House Freshmen	lowest along with 55 others out of 64	0	2 laws	<a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	lowest along with 194 others out of 247	0	5 laws	<a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	lowest along with 314 others out of 385	0	5 laws	<a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	lowest along with 359 others out of 440	0	5 laws	<a href="#">View All</a>

A bill is considered enacted if it or an exactly identical bill to it is enacted. We only consider bills that the legislator was the primary sponsor of. While a legislator may lay claim to authoring other bills that became law, such as through incorporation into larger bills, these cases are difficult for us to track quantitatively.

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## Zinke Received a Zero Transparency Rating

### Government Transparency

GovTrack looked at whether Zinke supported any of 28 [government transparency bills](#) in the House that we identified in this session. We gave Zinke **0** points, based on one point for cosponsoring and three points for sponsoring any of these bills.

<i>compared to...</i>	<i>rank</i>	<i>min</i>	<i>max</i>	
House Freshmen	lowest along with 26 others out of 64	0	4 points	<a href="#">View All</a>
House Republicans	lowest along with 170 others out of 247	0	7 points	<a href="#">View All</a>
Safe House Seats	lowest along with 157 others out of 385	0	9 points	<a href="#">View All</a>
All Representatives	lowest along with 188 others out of 440	0	9 points	<a href="#">View All</a>

[GovTrack.us, 2015 Report Card, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

## PERKS OF OFFICE

### AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS:

- Zinke received \$174,000 a year as a Member of Congress.
- He spent just under \$1 million on staff salaries in his first year in office.
- His House office spent over \$140,000 on travel.
- He took over \$22,000 in privately-funded travel, including a \$20,000 week-long trip to Israel and another to Las Vegas.
- He authorized two privately funded state trips – one to join him in Las Vegas and another a trip to Turkey, Bosnia, and Herzegovina.
- He spent over \$25,000 on franked mail.
- He spent over \$1.2 million in his House Office budget overall.

### AS A STATE SENATOR:

- He received \$15,371.01 in gross wages from 2009-2011.
- He also received nearly \$24,000 in legislative session per-diem payments.
- He was reimbursed \$1,500 for a MacBook Pro
- He attended a trip to Washington, DC at taxpayer expense.

### Zinke Received a \$174,000 Annual Salary

YEAR	SALARY
2015	\$174,000
2016	\$174,000

[Legistorm.com, accessed 2/29/16]

### ...BUT Voted For FY16 Legislative Branch Budget With Congressional Pay Freeze

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the bill that would provide \$3.3 billion for legislative branch operations, excluding Senate operations, in fiscal 2016. “[The] annual legislative branch spending bill ... [included] language extending the congressional salary freeze for a seventh consecutive year.” The bill was passed by a vote of 357-67. [HR 2250, [Vote # 247](#), 5/19/15; CQ Floor Votes, 5/19/15; Roll Call, [5/20/15](#)]

### Voted For Amendment To Cut Legislative Branch Budget By 1 Percent

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the Blackburn, R-Tenn., amendment that would cut funding under the bill by one percent for all accounts except for the Capitol Police, the Sergeant at Arms, and the Architect of the Capitol’s Capitol Police buildings, grounds and security account. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 172-250. [HR 2250, [Vote # 246](#), 5/19/15; CQ Floor Votes, 5/19/15]

### Voted For Amendment To Block Funding For Exchange Program To Promote American-Style Democracy In Post-Soviet Countries

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the Ratcliffe, R-Texas, amendment that would “block funding for the Open World Leadership Center, a program begun in 1999 and intended to educate politicians from the former Soviet Union about democracy in the U.S.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 224-199. [HR 2250, [Vote # 245](#), 5/19/15; Albany Herald, [5/19/15](#)]

### Zinke Spent Just Under \$1 Million on Staff Salaries

YEAR	TOTAL
10/01/2015-12/31/2015	\$332,612.36
07/01/2015 - 09/30/2015	\$223,550.09

04/01/2015 - 06/30/2015	\$220,064.78
01/01/2015 - 03/31/2015	\$183,531.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$959,758.38</b>

[House Statements of Disbursements, Q1 2015 – Q4 2015]

### Zinke's Staff Past & Present:

Boulton, Caroline H.  
Carpenter, Jeremy D.  
Chambers, Micah D.  
Fuller, John D. Jr.  
Galt, Jocelyn  
Gambill, Zachariah J. (Zack)  
Gladstone, Shira Lahav  
Hagler, Christine L. (Christy)  
Hommel, Scott C.  
Hudetz, Abigail R. (Abbey)  
Kaster, Amanda E.  
Kohn, Susan T.  
Matheny, Harrison W.  
McGuire, Kipp S.  
Rolfe, Judith F. (Judy)  
Selph, William R. (Will)  
Sterhan, Alexander J. (Alex)  
Swift, Heather N.  
Thiele, Aaron J.  
Vogel, Randy  
Waite, Michael W. (Mike)  
Wilson, Evan Montana [Legistorm.com, accessed 2/29/16]

### Zinke Spent Over \$140,000 on Travel in His House Office

YEAR	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2015	\$15,864.42	\$34,735.62	\$45,334.59	\$47,840.63
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$143,775.26</b>

[House Statements of Disbursements, Q1 2015 – Q4 2015]

### No Reported House-Funded Foreign Travel for Zinke

Since taking office in 2015, Zinke had no reported foreign trips by the House of Representatives. [House Travel Reports, Q1 2015 – Q1 2016]

### Zinke Took Over \$22,000 in Privately-Funded Travel

Since taking office in 2015, Zinke has taken two trips to Las Vegas and Israel worth \$22,243.73 funded by the Consumer Technology Association and the American Israel Education Association.

DATES	SPONSOR	DESTINATION/PURPOSE	COST
1/03-04/16	Consumer Technology Association	<b>Las Vegas, NV</b> Attended conference sessions on technology and legislation and exhibits on the show floor.	\$1,204.50

8/08-16/15	American Israel Education Association	<b>Jerusalem, Israel; Kibbutz Kfar Aza, Israel; Ramallah, West Bank</b> Traveled to Israel to attend events and educational briefings to educate members of congress about the U.S.-Israeli relationship.	\$21,039.23
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$22,243.73</b>

[Legistorm.com, accessed 2/29/16]

#### Zinke Authorized 2 Privately-Funded Staff Trips

Since taking office in 2015, Zinke has authorized two privately-funded staff trips totaling \$5,470.39.

DATES	STAFF	LOCATION / PURPOSE	SPONSOR	OTHER
1/03-04/16	Hommel, Scott C.	<b>Las Vegas, NV</b> Attended conference sessions on technology and legislation and exhibits on the show floor.	Consumer Technology Association	\$1,138.50
5/25-31/15	Chambers, Micah D.	<b>Eceabat &amp; Istanbul, Turkey; Maglaj, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sarajevo, Bosnia</b> Attended roundtables with Turkish officials; met with business, Turkish, Bosnian, U.S. and civil society leaders; toured historic sites.	Turkish Coalition of America	\$4,331.89
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$5,470.39</b>

[Legistorm.com, accessed 2/29/16]

#### Zinke Spent Over \$25,000 on Franked Mail

YEAR	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2015	-\$27.57	\$48.44	\$9,416.05	\$17,500.52
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$26,937.44</b>

[House Statements of Disbursements, Q1 2015 – Q4 2015]

#### Zinke Spent Over \$1.2 Million in His House Office

YEAR	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2015	\$227,973.37	\$285,432.06	\$320,005.25	\$449,842.98
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$1,283,253.66</b>

[House Statements of Disbursements, Q1 2015 – Q4 2015]

#### 2009-2011: \$15,371.04 in Gross Wages

From 2009 to 2011, Zinke earned a total of \$15,371.04 in gross wages. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

#### 2009: \$7,685.52 in Gross Wages

For the 2009 legislative session, Zinke earned a total of \$7,685.52 in gross wages. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

**2010: \$330.56 in Gross Wages**

For the 2010 interim session, Zinke earned a total of \$330.56 in gross wages. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

**2011: \$7,354.96 in Gross Wages**

For the 2011 legislative session, Zinke earned a total of \$7,354.96 in gross wages. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

**Nearly \$24,000 in Legislative Session Per-Diem Payments**

From 2009-2011, as state senator, Zinke accepted a total of \$23,511.69 in taxpayer funded legislative session per-diem payments. [Montana Legislative Services Division, 5/07/14]

**Moved to Indefinitely Postpone Bill to Require Legislators to Disclose Certain Costs**

In January 2011, Zinke moved to indefinitely postpone a bill to require legislators to disclose cost and payment information for meetings attended. The bill was indefinitely postponed (33-17). [[SB 158](#), [1/25/11](#)]

**2009: Reimbursed \$1,500 for MacBook Pro**

On January 27, 2009, Zinke was reimbursed \$1,500 for his MacBook Pro and Mac Office purchase. Zinke used his entire \$1,500 technology allowance to help pay for his \$2,149.99 purchase. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

**2010: Attended National Conference of State Legislatures' Spring Forum in DC**

In April 2010, Zinke attended the National Conference of State Legislatures' Spring Forum in Washington DC. Zinke's expenses included \$1,035.08 for lodging at the Renaissance Hotel, \$674.80 for his flight to D.C., \$425 registration fee, and \$100 in taxis. According to Zinke's expense report, he appeared to be reimbursed for \$1,500 of his expenses. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

**2010: Reimbursed \$834.92 for Three Economic Affairs Interim Committee Meetings**

In 2010, Zinke was reimbursed for Economic Affairs Interim Committee meetings on May 25, May 26 and June 29. Zinke was reimbursed \$247.92 for three days of salary, \$430 for mileage, \$88 for lodging and \$69 for meals. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

**2009: Reimbursed \$709.50 for Return Trips to Residence during Session**

On March 10, 2009, Zinke was reimbursed \$709.50 for return trips to his residence during session. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

**2011: Reimbursed \$657.90 for Return Trips to Residence During Session**

In 2011, Zinke was reimbursed \$657.90 for three return trips to his residence during session. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

**2009: Reimbursed \$354.14 for a Economic Affairs Interim Committee Meeting**

On September 9, 2009, Zinke was reimbursed \$354.14 to attend an Economic Affairs Interim Committee meeting. The reimbursement covered mileage, one day of salary, \$12 for one day of non-receiptable facility lodging, and \$23 for meals (the maximum allowed). [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

**2009: Reimbursed \$324 for a Montana State Fund Meeting**

On September 25, 2009, Zinke was reimbursed \$324.14, for mileage, one day of salary and a \$5 breakfast, to attend a Montana State Fund meeting, where he was a Legislative Liaison. The Montana State Fund is the Montana's insurer of choice for workers' compensation insurance. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14; Montana State Fund, accessed [5/07/14](#)]

**2010: Reimbursed \$320.64 Economic Affairs Interim Committee Meetings**

On August 19 2010, Zinke was reimbursed \$320.64 for an Economic Affairs Interim Committee meeting. Zinke was reimbursed \$23 for meals, one day of salary, and \$215 for mileage. [Freedom of Information Act Response, 5/07/14]

## POLITICS OF SELF-INTEREST

- ✓ Zinke announced he would release an autobiography a month before the election.
- ✓ He was called out by a blogger for “fake” fundraising – wracking up massive totals, but spending so much on consultants little was actually left for the election. He spent 75% of the \$2.7 million in the off-year.
- ✓ He voted for and has been a vocal advocate for the Keystone XL Pipeline. He happens to have been served of the Board of Directors, had a consulting contract with, and holds stock in a company that specializes in energy pipeline technology.
- ✓ In fact, Zinke was reportedly “narrowly avoided a court martial” after he inappropriately used travel funds while in the military.
- ✓ He was endorsed by former Sen. Conrad Burns who CBS News called “tainted” for his ties to convicted former lobbyist Jack Abramoff.
- ✓ He asked city council to approve a pedestrian crosswalk near a property he owned.
- ✓ He sponsored a bill to shift the hours that microbrewery taprooms could serve their beer and then shortly after started trying to build a microbrewery with a taproom.
- ✓ *NOTE: For more on Zinke’s politics of self-interest, please see the sections on Zinke’s PACs: Special Operations for America (SOFA) PAC and Supporting Electing American Leaders (SEAL) PAC.*

### Zinke Announced He Will Release of Autobiography with “American Sniper” Author Right Before the Election

In 2016, the *Billings Gazette* reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., has partnered with ‘American Sniper’ author Scott McEwen on a book that will arrive in bookstores in September, 49 days before the general election. ‘American Commander: Serving a Country Worth Fighting For and Training the Brave Soldiers Who Lead the Way,’” is a book Zinke said he’s been planning with McEwen for some time... ‘The book is not about me personally,’ Zinke said ‘It’s about American exceptionalism, and it’s about how we get guys to do what they do.’” [Billings Gazette, [2/23/16](#)]

### Zinke Said Book’s Release Date Determined by House Rules Committee

The *Gazette* continued, “Zinke said the timing of the book’s release was more determined by getting the House Rules Committee to vet his contract with publisher Thomas Nelson. The U.S. Navy also received a copy of the final draft to make sure the contents didn’t reveal sensitive information about operations. The book does cover subjects like advanced interrogation methods, which Zinke said will be part of the political discussion about President Barack Obama’s proposed closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Specifically, the book discusses sleep deprivation of terrorist suspects.” [Billings Gazette, [2/23/16](#)]

### **Blogger Called Out Zinke's "Fake" Fundraising**

In 2016, MT Cowgirl blog posted quoting a Daily Kos article on Zinke's "fake" fundraising. The post read, "There's an interesting article up on Daily Kos this week that highlights Marco Rubio's 'fake fundraising' tactic – comparing the candidate to Montana GOPer Ryan Zinke. 'Are you a Republican congressional candidate who wants to look like a fantastic fundraiser without actually doing any of that pesky fundraising?' writes Jeff Singer. If so, the article continues, just do like Zinke does. Apparently, candidates like Rubio and Zinke have been able to take advantage of how superficially some news outlets report fundraising (to give the impression that they are raking in cash through direct mail appeals), when what never gets reported is that the campaigns in this scheme net very little – indeed, they can even lose money. During the final three months of 2015, Zinke raised a monster \$577,000 but he spent \$597,000, leaving him with slightly less money in the bank than he had three months before." [MT Cowgirl blog, [2/17/16](#)]

### **Zinke Spent \$2.35M of the \$2.85M He Raised in 2015**

According to KPAX.com, "Last year, Zinke's campaign spent \$2.35 million of the \$2.85 million he raised, showering money on a wide array of fundraising consultants, direct-mail outfits and valuable mass lists of fundraising targets. In fact, during the final quarter of 2015, Zinke reported spending slightly more money than he raised, with \$604,000 of campaign spending compared to \$601,000 coming in the door. The first-term congressman ended the year with \$744,000 in his re-election campaign account." [KPAX.com, [2/03/16](#)]

### **Zinke Built Fundraising on a National Direct-Mail Operation**

The report continued, "The Zinke campaign has built a fundraising base with the help of an extensive, national direct-mail operation. It paid nearly \$600,000 to a single firm, Direct Support Services of Washington, D.C., for postage and data processing, and \$343,500 to Consolidated Mailing Services of Sterling, Va., for printing costs. His campaign also has spent at least \$65,000 purchasing or renting various lists, which likely are names of people who can be targeted for fundraising mailers or calls." [KPAX.com, [2/03/16](#)]

### **Zinke Spending Spree Showed He Spent 75% of \$2.7M Raised**

In 2016, the MT Cowgirl blog attacked Zinke's "campaign spending spree." The blog read, "In the last three months of 2015, Ryan Zinke raised \$601k for his 2016 re-election campaign. That would be an impressive haul had he not spent every dime of it during the same time. In fact, according to his latest FEC filing, Zinke spent more than he raised at the end of last year: a puzzling \$607k to be exact... At most, a candidate will usually spend around 20% of what they raise early on in a campaign. But not Zinke. Zinke has already pissed away 75% of the \$2.7 million he raised. \$2 million gone. In the business world that Republicans like to compare everything to, this burn rate would be considered a terrible investment. A look at Zinke's FEC reports shows money wasted on nothing by travel, postage, debt, handlers, and Hollywood image consultants. A few fancy nights at the high priced Washington DC Ritz Carlton and Willard Hotel also show up in those reports. No money on ads, no money on building a campaign in Montana... Something is fishy here. Who are all these staffers and consultants getting tens of thousands of dollars each month from Zinke – including one guy from Whitefish who got a \$61,500 payment? How is it that Zinke's campaign supposedly had so much debt from 2014 – the same year he raised over \$4.7 million dollars in a race that was not very competitive?" [MT Cowgirl blog, [1/27/16](#)]

### **Voted for Approving the Keystone XL Pipeline**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for approving the Keystone XL pipeline. "The House voted Friday to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, seizing on the momentum from a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling hours earlier that removed the last major legal obstacle to building the politically charged oil project." The bill passed 266 to 153. [HR 3, [Vote #16](#), 1/09/15; Politico, [1/09/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said It Was A “Tragedy” TransCanada Asked Kerry to Pause the Review of Its Application for the Keystone XL Infrastructure Project**

“On Monday, November 2, TransCanada, the company attempting to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline asked Secretary of State John Kerry to pause the review of its application for that infrastructure project. Montana’s congressman Ryan Zinke described the request as ‘a tragedy.’ ‘It’s a tragedy,’ Zinke said. ‘It would help with energy independence, which has been a long standing goal for this country. Our neighbors to the north are our closest allies, and have been. There is no environmental, by our state department’s own report, there is no significant environmental risk to it.’ Some have described the request as a tactical move by TransCanada that would delay the approval process until a new U.S. President took office. Zinke also indicated that a new president would be needed to get the pipeline built. ‘I think we have turned our backs, to a degree, on Canada, and I think its a travesty,’ Zinke said. ‘With a republican president I’m hoping it returns, but also these companies that are in charge of it, they look at it as an investment, you know, billions of dollars on the table, they can can’t continue this perpetuity.’ Montana Senator Steve Daines also signaled his disappointment over Keystone XL yesterday, blaming the Obama Administration for waging ‘a full on assault on American energy independence.’ [KGVO, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “There Is No Significant Environmental Risk to [Keystone XL Pipeline].”**

“On Monday, November 2, TransCanada, the company attempting to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline asked Secretary of State John Kerry to pause the review of its application for that infrastructure project. Montana’s congressman Ryan Zinke described the request as ‘a tragedy.’ ‘It’s a tragedy,’ Zinke said. ‘It would help with energy independence, which has been a long standing goal for this country. Our neighbors to the north are our closest allies, and have been. There is no environmental, by our state department’s own report, there is no significant environmental risk to it.’ Some have described the request as a tactical move by TransCanada that would delay the approval process until a new U.S. President took office. Zinke also indicated that a new president would be needed to get the pipeline built. ‘I think we have turned our backs, to a degree, on Canada, and I think its a travesty,’ Zinke said. ‘With a republican president I’m hoping it returns, but also these companies that are in charge of it, they look at it as an investment, you know, billions of dollars on the table, they can can’t continue this perpetuity.’ Montana Senator Steve Daines also signaled his disappointment over Keystone XL yesterday, blaming the Obama Administration for waging ‘a full on assault on American energy independence.’ [KGVO, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed the President’s Veto of the Keystone Pipeline, Would Pursue Other Avenues to Push the Project Forward**

“President Barack Obama’s announcement of a veto of the XL Keystone Pipeline project didn’t go over well with Montana’s delegation on Tuesday. [...] U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said, ‘President Obama chose Middle Eastern oil and coastal special interests over Montana jobs and North American energy independence. The people of Montana have been waiting for six years for Washington to quit playing politics with our jobs and our energy, and finally build the Keystone XL pipeline. During that time we have seen multiple incidents in shipping oil through less safe forms of transport. These events underscore the importance upgrading our energy infrastructure with the safest and most reliable pipelines, like the Keystone XL. Multiple studies, including those by the Obama Administration, have found the pipeline to be a safe and environmentally responsible form of transport, and an economic engine for the region. While I’m not surprised at the president’s veto, I’m still disappointed.’ [Sidney Herald, [3/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said “Building the Keystone Will Mean Safer Transport of Oil, More Rail Capacity for Agriculture Goods, & Good Paying Construction Jobs.”**

“Last Friday, the Obama administration announced tougher regulations on trains carrying crude oil. Rather than denying the facts that state of the art pipelines, like the Keystone XL, are the safest way to transport oil (even the State Department found it to be safe), President Obama should hear the call of the American people and finally allow the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Updating our energy infrastructure by building the

Keystone will mean safer transport of oil, more rail capacity for agriculture goods, and good paying construction jobs.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [5/4/15](#)]

## **Zinke Responsible for Marketing, Lobbying on Behalf of Energy Company linked to Keystone**

### **Served on the Board of Directors for Save the World Air**

Zinke serves on the Board of Save the World Air (STWA), an energy company that paid Zinke \$85,000 in directors fees in 2013. [Personal Financial Disclosure, [3/06/14](#)]

### **Had Contract with Save the World Air to Act as a “Government Liaison”**

According to a Securities and Exchange Commission report, Zinke had a contract with Save the World Air to do marketing for SWTA, facilitating introductions and act as a “state government liaison” toward the governor and the Energy Administration. [[SEC report](#)]

### **Holds Stock in Save the World Air**

In July 2013, Zinke purchased 22,936 shares from Save the World Air Inc, worth between \$15,001 and \$50,000. [Market Watch, [7/22/13](#); Personal Financial Disclosure, [3/06/14](#)]

### **Save the World Air May Financially Gain from Keystone Approval**

In 2013, Save the World Air (STWA) entered into an Equipment Lease Option to Purchase Agreement with TransCanada Keystone Pipeline. The lease was effective until October 15, 2014. During the lease period, TransCanada installed and tested STWA’s technology. [MarketWatch, [11/0/14](#)]

### **Former Captain Served with Zinke, Said He Inappropriately Used Travel Funds in the Navy**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Zinke has made his service as a Navy SEAL the central focus of his bid for the U.S. House... Retired Navy SEAL Capt. Larry W. Bailey was the former commanding officer of the Naval Special Warfare Center, where Zinke received his early SEAL training. Earlier this year, Bailey publicly accused Zinke of inappropriately using Navy travel funds for personal travel, an allegation Zinke admitted but said was a mistake. Zinke later told *The Associated Press* the disputed travel claim was for a \$211 plane ticket to Montana when he was a junior officer. He said he paid the money back and the issue was settled.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/23/14]

### **Retired SEAL Captain Described Himself as a Conservative Republican**

The *Great Falls Tribune* noted the accusation came from “Bailey, who describes himself as conservative Republican.” Bailey said, “I believe in Ronald Reagan’s 11th Commandment (to not speak ill of fellow Republicans)... But I would rather have an honest Democrat in Congress than a dishonest Republican.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/23/14]

### **Captain Claimed the Travel Incident Was ‘Severe Enough Zinke Narrowly Avoided a Court Martial’**

The report continued, “Bailey claimed he has knowledge of at least one blemish on Zinke’s Navy record that Bailey said was severe enough Zinke narrowly avoided a court martial. According to Bailey, a June 15, 1999, fitness report from Zinke’s personnel file would clear the air surrounding Zinke’s record, and whether it is as spotless as Zinke claims. ‘There’s one fitness report, that if he would release it, would prove that he’s being persecuted, or that he’s grossly misleading the public,’ Bailey told the Libertarian blog NorthWest Liberty News in June. Bailey claimed Zinke’s former commanding officer, who is now a three-star admiral, personally told Bailey that ‘he intended that (Zinke) not get promoted. He was eased out of SEAL Team 6 because of transgressions.’ ‘It wasn’t a normal rotation,’ Bailey said in June. ‘They got him out of there. What they tried to do was let him stay 20 years in the Navy so he would get his retirement, so they weren’t going to court martial him or get him in administrative punishment and require him to leave to service.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/23/14]

### **Captain: “His Special Operations Officer Said He Wanted to Rip His Trident Off His Uniform & Throw Him Out of the Navy”**

The *Tribune* reported, “Bailey reiterated his allegations in an interview Wednesday. Speaking from North Carolina, Bailey said he spoke to three of Zinke’s superior officers, including the author of the June 1999 fitness report. ‘His special operations officer said he wanted to rip his (Zinke’s) trident off his uniform and throw him out of the Navy, he was so upset about what he had done,’ Bailey said. ‘His commanding officer was more amenable and took middle ground, not kick him out of Navy, but get him out of SEAL Team 6. He said he wrote a fitness report that was designed to specifically prevent him from getting a promotion.’ [Great Falls Tribune, 10/23/14]

### **Captain Did Acknowledge Zinke’s “Stellar” Service & Ability to Overcome the Report**

The report noted, “Bailey acknowledged that Zinke’s service before and after the as-yet-to-be-disclosed 1999 incident was stellar, and Zinke was able to overcome the June 1999 fitness report. Bailey said he believes Zinke might have achieved the rank of admiral ‘if he kept his nose clean.’ ‘He was a fine officer,’ Bailey said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/23/14]

### **Endorsed by “Tainted” Former U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns**

In February 2014, former U.S. Senator Conrad Burns endorsed Zinke. Burns said in a statement, “Ryan Zinke is a man of honor and has a proven track record of distinguished military and public service. I am proud to support him in his candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives.” [Zinke for Congress, [2/18/14](#)]

### **CBS News: Called Burns “Tainted,” Connected to Jack Abramoff**

In a 2007 article, CBS News called Conrad Burns “tainted” for his ties to lobbyists, particularly Jack Abramoff. [CBS News, [1/10/07](#)]

### **Asked City of Whitefish to Support Crosswalk near Property He Owned**

In June 2012, Zinke wrote a letter to the Whitefish City Council asking the city to support a pedestrian crosswalk near property he owned on West Second Street. In return, Zinke said he would provide a property easement for a future bike path. Zinke said, “The installation of a pedestrian and bike crossing is critical to public safety and will greatly enhance public access [...] when I grew up here, West Second Street wasn’t blight. It was a great neighborhood.” [Whitefish Pilot, 6/13/12]

### **Promoted Shifting Beer Hours at Taprooms**

In December 2010, Zinke announced that he would be sponsoring a bill that would shift the hours in taprooms, which do not have to buy expensive liquor licenses, could serve their own beer from 12pm to 10pm rather than 10am to 8pm. Zinke said, “In Montana, in the summers -- which is a primary driver for beer -- it doesn’t even get dark until 11 [PM]. Shifting the hours, without increasing them, I think is appropriate [...] This session is really about jobs and the economy. I think whatever the Legislature can do to promote local jobs and reasonable regulation is to the benefit of us all.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 12/26/10]

### **Worked on the Double Tap Brewery**

In September 2012, when speaking with the *Daily Inter Lake*, Zinke talked about starting a new microbrewery, the Double Tap. Zinke said, “What excites me is I like the industry. There’s something about making something yourself and selling it, and with the microbrew industry, if you’re not doing it right, you won’t sell. It’s a clean industry and fits with the rebirth in this country focusing on more local products,” [Daily Inter Lake, 9/29/12]

### **Planners Wanted Corridor Study**

In November 2012, Zinke’s plan to build a microbrewery and start a bed and breakfast was delayed because the Whitefish Planning Office recommended tabling his project until a corridor study could be completed. The proposed 3,010 square foot microbrewery and parking lot would be on land that the Zinke family has reportedly

owned for 75 years. Zinke said, “I can’t pay for a corridor study. If the city mandates it, I won’t pay for it.” [Daily Inter Lake, 11/12/12; Whitefish Pilot, 11/21/12]

### **Planning Board Approved Proposal**

In November 2012, the Planning Board approved Zinke’s proposal even though the Planning Office recommended tabling the project until after a corridor study was done. [Daily Inter Lake, 11/24/12]

### **2 Dozen Property Owners Signed Petition Against Project**

On December 3, 2012, before the Whitefish City Council was set to vote, two dozen property owners who lived within 150 feet of the proposed project turned in a petition to City Hall. The petition cited a state law that required a two-thirds majority vote of the council. A neighbor said, regarding her experience at the Planning Board meeting, “We expressed valid and practical concerns about deep changes to the neighborhood. We were dismissed almost as if we hadn’t spoken. We all felt our concerns were disregarded.” [Whitefish Pilot, 12/05/12]

### **Pulled Proposal Right before Final Whitefish Meeting**

On December 3, 2012, right before the Whitefish City Council was set to vote on Zinke’s proposal, Zinke withdrew his proposal. Zinke said, “Disingenuous neighbors put a cloud over the project and said that I was getting special treatment and that the planning board wasn’t doing their job. That’s nonsense. I’m not going to invest in a project where I have a disingenuous neighbor falsely accusing me of things.” [Whitefish Pilot, 12/05/12]

### **Zinke: Unfortunate for Whitefish Residents, Since I Would Have Established Conservation Easement**

In December 2012, Zinke said the “unfortunate part” for Whitefish residents is that Zinke would have put a conservation easement on the property to provide easier access to the river. Zinke said, “The unfortunate part is for Whitefish residents. I want to make sure we smartly provide access to the river, so I put in a conservation easement on a large segment of the property.” [Whitefish Pilot, 12/05/12]

### **May 2013: Asked for Conditional Use Permit for Inn**

In May 2013, applied for a conditional use permit for his proposed Snow Frog Inn, which would be allowable under zoning at the time. [Whitefish Pilot, 5/08/13]

### **Received Approval from the Planning Board**

In May 2013, Zinke received approval from the Planning Board for his scaled back Snow Frog Inn. Zinke’s updated plan had six guest rooms instead of the originally proposed nine. Zinke said, “When the trees were removed everyone saw that West Second Street needs some work. Second Street needs some improvement and not many people are willing to do that.” [Whitefish Pilot, 5/22/13]

### **Received Unanimous Support from Whitefish City Council**

In June 2013, Zinke received unanimous support from the Whitefish City Council for his conditional use permit. Zinke said, “This proposal meets every requirement. I can’t do any more than I’ve done. I’ve been accused of building strip malls and having barbecue briquettes. I’ve met the requirements. I’ve talked to neighbors. I’ve done everything I can to make this project work [...] Everyone says they want jobs. Everyone says they want businesses that are smart and support the community. This is in the best interest of Whitefish. It’s a nice quiet project that blends well into the neighborhood.” [Whitefish Pilot, 6/05/13]

### **Zinke Attacked for Voting Against St. Legislators Disclosing Travel Costs & Payments for Meetings**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “The Lewis campaign also said Ryan Zinke, as a state senator in 2011, voted against requiring state legislators to disclose costs and payments to attend meetings and conferences. On Saturday, Zinke had this to say about Senate Bill 158: ‘I voted against the bill because it was too convoluted. All too often well meaning legislation ends up creating greater ambiguity.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 9/07/14]

## PUT AMBITIONS BEFORE MONTANANS

- ✓ Zinke’s rise in politics has always seemed marked by two main traits – ambition and self-interest. While he’s used campaign finance rules to enrich himself, his family, and friends, he has also used them to build what appear to be national networks of donors. His political contributions appear to be largely reinvested in more fundraising – a likely explanation being running for higher office.
- ✓ In 2015, after House Speaker John Boehner announced he would step down, Zinke announced he was considering a run for House Speaker. Given his less than a year in the House, this was surprising (MTPR noted it caught just about everyone “off-guard”) and off-putting (MSU Professor, Dave Parker: “I Thought That A Ryan Zinke Speaker Run Was A Bit Crazy.”).
- ✓ The *Billings Gazette*: “If Zinke really cared so much about the country, wouldn’t his first priority be to find someone who will work with the President?”
- ✓ After Zinke announced plans to release a book right before the election, radio guests discussed his “High Ambitions.”
- ✓ Zinke held a 2016 fundraiser at his “home” in Santa Barbara, CA. He moved back to Montana from California shortly before running for office.
- ✓ After all, he spent the first two months of his Montana campaign for Congress “touring around the country.”

### Spent 1st 2 Mos of Campaign “Touring Around the Country”

At a Meet and Greet in January 2014, Zinke said he “spent the first two months [of his campaign] touring the country.” Zinke said, “I spent the first two months touring around the country and talking to leaders in industry, including the railroad, and went to the top. I went to people that have an interest in Montana.” [YouTube, HYPERLINK "<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv6KpJJyhpc&feature=youtu.be>" 1/28/14]

## RUN FOR SPEAKER

### Zinke Announced He Was Considering Running for House Speaker

“Rep. Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL Team Six commander, confirmed with Brandon Tyler Webb, founder of the SofRep special operations news site, that he is considering running for House speaker so as to take a stand ‘against all enemies, foreign and domestic,’ including President Barack Hussein Obama. ‘I think there are a few people who can do that,’ the Montana Republican told Webb. ‘If folks like Paul Ryan and others step aside, and more of my colleagues ask me to run, I will hear the call to serve. Leadership is about service to country, not self. It’s time to advance the cause of freedom.’” [Conservative Tribune Blog, [10/16/15](#)]

## Zinke Posted Article About His Consideration of Running for Speaker of the House



Ryan Zinke

October 16, 2015 · 🌐

Overwhelmed and humbled by all the support I'm hearing while Lola and I consider this important decision. People are hungry for change and want their government to do it's job. And to be clear: I was not on the Bin Laden mission as this article may lead. The brave men who were and the intel analysts deserve all the credit and respect.



**BREAKING: Former "SEAL Team Six" Commander Makes Massive Move to Take on Barack Obama PERSONALLY**

CONSERVATIVETRIBUNE.COM

[Facebook, Ryan Zinke, 10/16/15]

## Zinke Said It Was “Humbling” That Montanans And “Folks Across” The US Encouraged Him To Run For Speaker Of The House

“The Wall Street Journal has published an article that begins with a paragraph about your public service and the talk of you as a replacement for Rep. Boehner when he retires on October 30th. On your social media pages, there is a lot of encouragement from citizens located near and far that you make a run at the nominating process. What do you make of this hullabaloo? [Zinke:] It’s so humbling to hear from so many Montanans and folks across our country. I’m looking at it. The Speaker is about leadership and not policy and we’re at a point in our nation’s history where we’ve had a Speaker resign, we’ve had a presumptive Speaker resign and quite frankly we’re facing what I think is a leadership crisis. In our country’s history, there have been other freshmen Speakers—though it has been a long time. But it isn’t about policies. It’s about getting the Congress to do their duty: And that’s to defend the principles that made this country strong and defending the Constitution. I’ve taken an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. It’s time to rise and put our country first, and yourself second. It’s about leadership. We’re looking at it. Our phones are ringing off the hook because I think America wants something different. I haven’t decided, but what I have decided is that Congress better do our duty and defend our values of this country. I’m listening—I’m on a bus tour around beautiful Montana, That’s the heartbeat of America right there. Americans are frustrated and they look at their government and it’s not doing what we should be doing. They want a better future and they want America to be strong and prosperous.” [Indian Country Today Media Network, [10/23/15](#)]

*NOTE: Zinke eventually voted for Paul Ryan as Speaker.*

**MSU Professor, Dave Parker: “I Thought That A Ryan Zinke Speaker Run Was A Bit Crazy.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke said Wednesday he won’t run for House Speaker and instead will support Wisconsin congressman Paul Ryan for the job. [...] David Parker, a political scientist at Montana State University, said that while Zinke likely has ‘leadership qualities,’ a run for speaker would be an uphill climb for a young lawmaker in the House. Parker said the post requires knowing in great detail how the chamber works and tapping into long-established relationships with other lawmakers — a difficult challenge for a freshman with minimal experience. He also said GOP lawmakers could view Zinke as too liberal. ‘I thought that a Ryan Zinke speaker run was a bit crazy,’ he said. ‘I didn’t think he has much of a shot given he’s a freshman.” [Great Falls Tribune, [10/21/15](#)]

**Zinke Said If He Was Speaker Of The House “Montana’s Priorities Would Be At The Top Of The House.”**

“A lot of folks have asked what ‘speaker’ Zinke would mean for Montana. Well I’ll tell you: Montana’s priorities are my priorities, and that means Montana’s priorities would be at the top of the House. We’ve already passed the Resilient Federal Forests Act in the House, with bipartisan support, but we’d have a lot more weight now to help push it in the Senate. Also, we’d be able to work on reforming the tax code to include repealing the Death Tax on family farms, ranches and businesses, we could reauthorize the LWCF, and pass a long-term highway bill that is financially sound in order to fund our infrastructure projects.” [Congressman Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [10/19/15](#)]

**Zinke Said He Would “Work On Reforming The Tax Code To Include Repealing The Death Tax [...] Would Reauthorize The LWCF And Pass A Long And Pass A Long-Term Highway Bill” If He Were Speaker Of The House**

“A lot of folks have asked what ‘speaker’ Zinke would mean for Montana. Well I’ll tell you: Montana’s priorities are my priorities, and that means Montana’s priorities would be at the top of the House. We’ve already passed the Resilient Federal Forests Act in the House, with bipartisan support, but we’d have a lot more weight now to help push it in the Senate. Also, we’d be able to work on reforming the tax code to include repealing the Death Tax on family farms, ranches and businesses, we could reauthorize the LWCF, and pass a long-term highway bill that is financially sound in order to fund our infrastructure projects.” [Congressman Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [10/19/15](#)]

**Zinke Spox: “[Zinke Was] Still Considering [A Run For Speaker]. Paul Ryan Hasn’t Made A Decision And That Is Going To Impact Congressman Zinke As Well As A Lot Of Other People.”**

Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., raised \$806,000 in the third quarter and had about \$747,000 in cash on hand as of Sept. 30, his disclosure to the Federal Election Commission shows. The former Navy SEAL spent slightly more than \$440,000, a figure a Zinke spokeswoman attributed to mostly mailings and retirement of debt from his run for Congress last year. Heather Swift with Zinke’s office said the fundraising shows ‘growing support’ for the first-term congressman. Donations included \$91,500 from political action committees, the filing showed. [...] Zinke said this week he may run for speaker of the House. Swift said Friday ‘he’s still considering (a run). Paul Ryan hasn’t made a decision and that is going to impact Congressman Zinke as well as a lot of other people.’ Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin is considering whether to run for the House’s top position, with a decision expected as soon as next week. Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, is resigning from Congress.” [Great Falls Tribune, [10/16/15](#)]

**Zinke Was On Voices Of Montana And Discussed The House Speaker Race, The Iranian Nuclear Deal, Crude Oil, Forest Reform, Immigration, And Took A Few Questions From Callers.**

[Northern Broadcasting, Voices of Montana, [10/15/15](#)] (AUDIO)

**MSU Professor Dave Parker: “Zinke Is To The Left Of Any Republican, Much Farther To The Left Than The House Freedom Caucus And Farther To The Left Than Congressman Ryan And Farther To The Left An Any Republican Party Within The House.”**

“MSU Professor and MTN Political Analyst Dr. David Parker says Congressman Ryan Zinke is too liberal to be Speaker of the House of Representatives. [...]’ Well, if you actually look at Congressman Ryan Zinke’s voting record using this real time update done by political scientists at the University of Georgia, Congressman Zinke is to the left of any Republican, much farther to the left than the House Freedom Caucus and farther to the left than Congressman Ryan and farther to the left an any Republican party within the House,’ said Parker.” [KPAX, [10/17/15](#)]

**KPAX: Headline: “Political Analyst Finds Zinke “Too Liberal To Be Speaker.”** [KPAX, [10/17/15](#)]

**MTPR: “Zinke’s Announcement Tuesday That He’s Considering Running For Speaker Of The U.S. House Caught Just About Everyone By Surprise.”**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke’s announcement Tuesday that he’s considering running for Speaker of the U.S. House caught just about everyone by surprise, so don’t feel too out-of-the-loop if you didn’t see it coming. ’No, it doesn’t make you politically naive. I certainly didn’t expect Congressman Zinke to make this announcement and I study Congress.’ That’s Montana State University political scientist David Parker who says just about everyone was blindsided by Zinke’s announcement on Tuesday.” [MTPR, [10/14/15](#)]

**MSU Political Professor, Dave Parker Said Zinke’s Chances For Speaker Were “Extraordinarily Slim.”**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke’s announcement Tuesday that he’s considering running for Speaker of the U.S. House caught just about everyone by surprise, so don’t feel too out-of-the-loop if you didn’t see it coming. [...] “The best experience I have, according to Patrick Henry, is the Lamp of Experience and frankly that lamp tells me that (his) chances are extraordinarily slim. I can’t say no chance. I do think Ryan Zinke has some leadership qualities, but look, the Speaker is about understanding the institution, understanding the rules and raising lots of money for the party. I just don’t see optically how this makes any sense for him or why the House would go in this direction.” [MTPR, [10/14/15](#)]

**Zinke On Speaker Race: “My Background I’ve Led Some Of The Finest Teams This Nation’s Ever Put Together, And It Is About Teamwork And Leadership; Getting An Enormously Talented Body Moving In One Direction.”**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke’s announcement Tuesday that he’s considering running for Speaker of the U.S. House caught just about everyone by surprise, so don’t feel too out-of-the-loop if you didn’t see it coming. [...] Zinke says Speaker John Boehner’s resignation, Representative Kevin McCarthy’s withdrawal as his replacement, and Paul Ryan’s hesitancy to fill the void has led to a crisis of leadership in Congress. Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, says Americans are tired of the status quo and want a talented leader. ’And in my background I’ve led some of the finest teams this nation’s ever put together, and it is about teamwork and leadership; getting an enormously talented body moving in one direction,’ Zinke says. MSU political scientist David Parker doesn’t think Zinke’s potential bid makes much sense.” [MTPR, [10/14/15](#)]

**Zinke: “There’ve Been Speakers In The Past Who’ve Been Freshmen.”**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke’s announcement Tuesday that he’s considering running for Speaker of the U.S. House caught just about everyone by surprise, so don’t feel too out-of-the-loop if you didn’t see it coming. [...] Zinke is a congressional freshman who hasn’t finished his first term, but the Republican doesn’t see this as a problem. ’There’ve been speakers in the past who’ve been freshmen. I don’t think the resume necessarily should be built upon status quo or establishment or an agenda,’ Zinke says. ‘I think the resume should be built upon the ability to lead.’” [MTPR, [10/14/15](#)]

**MSU Political Professor, Dave Parker Said Freshman House Speakers Only Existed In The 1800's Because Congress Was "A Really New Institution."**

"Congressman Ryan Zinke's announcement Tuesday that he's considering running for Speaker of the U.S. House caught just about everyone by surprise, so don't feel too out-of-the-loop if you didn't see it coming. [...] There have been freshman speakers of the U.S. House, but as David Parker notes, that was a long time ago. 'You have to go back to the 1800's to when we had a freshman Speaker of the House. The House was completely different back then. It was a really new institution. You had high levels of turnover. Very few people stayed in Washington. Going into the 20th century it would be unprecedented. In fact, it would be unprecedented from the late 1800's on,' according to Parker." [MTPR, [10/14/15](#)]

**Zinke: "I've Been Encouraged By People In And Out Of The State To Consider It, And So I Am Considering It...I've Never Retreated From Any Battle And I'm Not Going To Retreat From This Battle, But I Want To See Whether Paul Ryan Declares."**

"Congressman Ryan Zinke's announcement Tuesday that he's considering running for Speaker of the U.S. House caught just about everyone by surprise, so don't feel too out-of-the-loop if you didn't see it coming. [...] Zinke says he's been encouraged to make a run for the Speaker's chair by congressional colleagues, veterans and constituents. 'I've been encouraged by people in and out of the state to consider it, and so I am considering it...I've never retreated from any battle and I'm not going to retreat from this battle, but I want to see whether Paul Ryan declares. I would support Paul Ryan and I think the strong majority of the caucus would.'" [MTPR, [10/14/15](#)]

**Montana Public Radio: Headline: "Expert: Rep. Zinke A Longshot For Speaker."** [MTPR, [10/14/15](#)]

**Zinke Claimed He Was "Looking" At Running For Speaker Of The House Because America Was Facing A "Leadership Crisis."**

"Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT), a former Commander at Navy SEAL Team Six before his election to Congress last year, confirms he is openly considering a run for the Speakership of the U.S. House of Representatives. 'Well, I'm looking at it,' Zinke said on Andrew Wilkow's Wilkow Majority on SiriusXM Patriot channel 125 on Tuesday afternoon. 'The Speaker is about leadership and not policy and we're at a point in our nation's history where we've had a Speaker resign, we've had a presumptive Speaker resign and quite frankly we're facing what I think is a leadership crisis. In our country's history, there have been other freshmen Speakers—though it has been a long time. But it isn't about policies. It's about getting the Congress to do their duty: And that's the defend the principles that made this country strong and defending the Constitution. I've taken an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. It's time to rise and put our country first, and yourself second. It's about leadership. We're looking at it. Our phones are ringing off the hook because I think America wants something different. I haven't decided, but what I have decided is that Congress better do our duty and defend our values of this country.'" [Breitbart, [10/13/15](#)]

**Zinke: "[Being Speaker] It Isn't About Policies. It's About Getting The Congress To Do Their Duty."**

"Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT), a former Commander at Navy SEAL Team Six before his election to Congress last year, confirms he is openly considering a run for the Speakership of the U.S. House of Representatives. 'Well, I'm looking at it,' Zinke said on Andrew Wilkow's Wilkow Majority on SiriusXM Patriot channel 125 on Tuesday afternoon. 'The Speaker is about leadership and not policy and we're at a point in our nation's history where we've had a Speaker resign, we've had a presumptive Speaker resign and quite frankly we're facing what I think is a leadership crisis. In our country's history, there have been other freshmen Speakers—though it has been a long time. But it isn't about policies. It's about getting the Congress to do their duty: And that's the defend the principles that made this country strong and defending the Constitution. I've taken an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. It's time to rise and put our country first, and yourself second. It's about leadership. We're looking at it. Our phones are ringing off the hook because I think America

wants something different. I haven't decided, but what I have decided is that Congress better do our duty and defend our values of this country." [Breitbart, [10/13/15](#)]

**Breitbart: "Zinke Said The Speaker Of The House Is A 'Representative' Of The Entire Body, And An 'Orator Of What America Should Be,' Adding That It Is An 'Enormous Responsibility' And 'I Haven't Retreated From Battle And Neither Should America.'"**

"Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT), a former Commander at Navy SEAL Team Six before his election to Congress last year, confirms he is openly considering a run for the Speakership of the U.S. House of Representatives. [...] Zinke said the Speaker of the House is a 'representative' of the entire body, and an 'orator of what America should be,' adding that it is an 'enormous responsibility' and 'I haven't retreated from battle and neither should America.' 'I'm listening—I'm on a bus tour around beautiful Montana,' he said, noting he's traveling right now through small towns in his state. 'That's the heartbeat of America right there,' Zinke said. 'Americans are frustrated and they look at their government and it's not doing what we should be doing,' Zinke said. "They want a better future and they want America to be strong and prosperous." [Breitbart, [10/13/15](#)]

**Zinke Said People Called His Office And Encouraged Him To Run For House Speaker**

"U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke says he is considering running for House speaker. The first-term Montana Republican said in a statement Tuesday the House is in a leadership crisis with current Speaker John Boehner resigning and Rep. Kevin McCarthy's withdrawal as a candidate. Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin has so far rebuffed calls to run for the House's top position. Spokeswoman Heather Swift says Zinke's decision will depend on what Ryan does. Zinke says callers to his office have been urging him to run. He says other freshmen congressmen have been elected speaker but it has been a long time. When Boehner announced his resignation last month, Zinke said he was looking for a new speaker who shows resolve against President Barack Obama and bureaucrats 'who have hijacked the U.S. Constitution.'" [AP, [10/13/15](#)]

**Zinke Said He Would Run For House Speaker If Paul Ryan Decided Not To Run**

"If Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan doesn't run for Speaker of the House, Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke is in. Zinke was touring eastern Montana Tuesday, with bus stops in Glasgow, Wolf Point, Culbertson, Bainville and Sidney. In an email, Zinke press secretary Heather Swift said his schedule was packed but confirmed his interest in the speaker's gavel. 'It's obvious America is looking for something different and somebody who has leadership outside of politics. Rep. Zinke's office has been inundated with phone calls urging him to step up and run,' she wrote. 'To Congressman Zinke this is about leadership and standing on our American values and principles that made this nation great,' she said. 'The Navy SEALs and Montana represent those values and Ryan Zinke leads with those values.' If elected, Zinke would be the state's first speaker." [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [10/13/15](#)]

**Dave Parker, MSU Political Science Professor: "It's Absurd To Think A Freshman [Zinke] Has [The Institutional] Knowledge" To Run For House Speaker**

"If Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan doesn't run for Speaker of the House, Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke is in. [...] So, Zinke and nearly a dozen other members are exploring. Montana State University political science professor David Parker said Zinke would be the least experienced speaker in the 20th century. 'The speaker is someone who has a lot of institutional knowledge, knows the players, and knows how to get things done,' Parker said. 'It's absurd to think a freshman has that knowledge.' Parker also wondered how this could benefit the congressman from Whitefish. In order to govern, the speaker has to take controversial positions and occasionally ally with Democrats, he said. 'Being speaker requires you spend a lot of time in D.C. and traveling the nation,' Parker said. 'I can't imagine Ryan Zinke would want to take challenges from the right here in Montana. I'm not saying he's not capable of being speaker, I just don't think it's in his best interests.'" [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [10/13/15](#)]

**Dave Parker: “I Can’t Imagine Ryan Zinke Would Want To Take Challenges From The Right Here In Montana. I’m Not Saying He’s Not Capable Of Being Speaker, I Just Don’t Think It’s In His Best Interests.”**

“If Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan doesn’t run for Speaker of the House, Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke is in. [...] So, Zinke and nearly a dozen other members are exploring. Montana State University political science professor David Parker said Zinke would be the least experienced speaker in the 20th century. ‘The speaker is someone who has a lot of institutional knowledge, knows the players, and knows how to get things done,’ Parker said. ‘It’s absurd to think a freshman has that knowledge.’ Parker also wondered how this could benefit the congressman from Whitefish. In order to govern, the speaker has to take controversial positions and occasionally ally with Democrats, he said. ‘Being speaker requires you spend a lot of time in D.C. and traveling the nation,’ Parker said. ‘I can’t imagine Ryan Zinke would want to take challenges from the right here in Montana. I’m not saying he’s not capable of being speaker, I just don’t think it’s in his best interests.’” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [10/13/15](#)]

**Zinke Said He Would “Wait Until The Battlefield Clears” Before He Decided Who He Would Support For Speaker Of The House**

“As divided U.S. House Republicans struggle to choose a new top leader, Montana’s U.S Representative Ryan Zinke (R) said Friday he hasn’t decided who he’ll support. ‘My position is (to) wait until the battlefield clears a little,’ he said in a telephone interview late Friday afternoon, as he prepared to board a plane from Washington, D.C., to Montana. Zinke, a freshman, said some members had suggested he run for the speakership of the tumultuous House – but that he thinks the House has plenty of ‘talented individuals’ who can help pull the fractious caucus together. ‘I’ve never seen a group of more talented individuals in Congress, in particular the freshman class, which is 20 percent of Congress,’ he said. ‘It’s just an extraordinary group of talented and committed Americans, yet, as a whole, the caucus has not learned yet to be a team.’” [KXLF, [10/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Said Republican Representatives In Congress Had Not Learned “To Be A Team.”**

“As divided U.S. House Republicans struggle to choose a new top leader, Montana’s U.S Representative Ryan Zinke (R) said Friday he hasn’t decided who he’ll support. ‘My position is (to) wait until the battlefield clears a little,’ he said in a telephone interview late Friday afternoon, as he prepared to board a plane from Washington, D.C., to Montana. Zinke, a freshman, said some members had suggested he run for the speakership of the tumultuous House – but that he thinks the House has plenty of ‘talented individuals’ who can help pull the fractious caucus together. ‘I’ve never seen a group of more talented individuals in Congress, in particular the freshman class, which is 20 percent of Congress,’ he said. ‘It’s just an extraordinary group of talented and committed Americans, yet, as a whole, the caucus has not learned yet to be a team.’” [KXLF, [10/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Said He Was Not A Member Of The House Freedom Caucus But He Got “Along With Them.”**

“As divided U.S. House Republicans struggle to choose a new top leader, Montana’s U.S Representative Ryan Zinke (R) said Friday he hasn’t decided who he’ll support. [...] The conservatives are roughly 40 members known as the Freedom Caucus, which includes several freshman House members. Zinke said he is not a member of the Freedom Caucus, although he said he ‘gets along with them all.’ ‘I’ll never fit in very well in any caucus, per se,’ he said. ‘I try to reflect the state of Montana first and foremost.’ Zinke said Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, the chair of the House Budget Committee and the Republican vice-presidential candidate in 2012, is getting an ‘enormous amount of pressure’ to run for speaker of the House. Ryan has said he isn’t interested. Zinke said it’s possible that a member of the Texas delegation may become a leading candidate, considering that Texas has the largest single bloc of Republicans from any one state in the House. The difficulty of choosing a new House leader reflects a frustrated America, Zinke said. ‘Most Americans feel like this country is not going in the right direction, but they don’t know how to fix it,’ he said. Zinke said the Republican-led Congress is dealing with a ‘lawless president,’ and is frustrated on how to rein him in. ‘I believe it will take a president and a Congress working together to restore the balance in our country,’ Zinke

said, adding that it could be a Democratic or Republican president. ‘We just have to have a president and a Congress, working together, to turn this around.’ [KXLF, [10/10/15](#)]

**KXLF: “Zinke Said It’s Possible That A Member Of The Texas Delegation May Become A Leading Candidate [For Speaker], Considering That Texas Has The Largest Single Bloc Of Republicans From Any One State In The House.”**

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***Independent Record*: Zinke Was Confident That McCarthy Would Have Been Elected The Next House Speaker**

“Maybe U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., should give up his front-row seat to congressional history, perhaps moving to the second row. Zinke was front and center in caucus Thursday when U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., announced he was dropping out of the running for House Speaker. [...] Zinke was fairly confident that McCarthy would have been elected the next House speaker. He told Montana journalists as much during a press conference Wednesday. A day later, all bets were off. Now the caucus is leaning on Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., to take the job, which would also make Ryan second in line for the presidency. Ryan, a one-time candidate for vice president, earlier said he’s not interested in the job but will take the weekend to reconsider before Republicans take up the issue again. ‘Paul Ryan is well liked, well respected, certainly very capable,’ Zinke told *The Billings Gazette*. ‘If we can’t get there, I think the inside baseball is the state of Texas, the Texas delegation.’ [Independent Record, [10/9/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I Spend A Lot Of Time With The Texas Guys, The Michigan Guys, The Pennsylvania Guys, Because A Lot Of Getting Things Done Is Trying To Build Relationships.”**

“Maybe U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., should give up his front-row seat to congressional history, perhaps moving to the second row. Zinke was front and center in caucus Thursday when U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., announced he was dropping out of the running for House Speaker. [...] ‘I spend a lot of time with the Texas guys, the Michigan guys, the Pennsylvania guys, because a lot of getting things done is trying to build relationships,’ Zinke said. Zinke is a caucus of one, as a state with only one representative. He said his vote for speaker will go to whoever is right for Montana. The politics surrounding House speaker have shown a real need for teamwork in Congress, Zinke said. People need to work more on governing and less on personal interests. At least that’s what Zinke has observed.’ [Independent Record, [10/9/15](#)]

***Billings Gazette*: “Clearly Zinke Didn’t Think Much Of Boehner’s Leadership.”**

“Seven-out-of-10 Americans do not want the government to shutdown. Even a majority of those who identify as ‘Republicans’ do not favor a shutdown, according to a recent Quinnipiac poll. And yet the United States House of Representatives is in flux because of the showdown over the shutdown, Planned Parenthood and John Boehner stepping down. [...] Congressman Ryan Zinke, Montana’s lone representative in the House, would

seem to be squarely in the camp fomenting a change in leadership as well as continuing the over-the-top rhetoric that seems to be at heart of these ridiculous threats to stop the federal government. Zinke's statement on Boehner's stepping down said, 'Going forward, I will be looking for a Speaker who shows resolve against Barack Obama and the Washington bureaucrats who have hijacked the U.S. Constitution and saddled our children with debt and uncertainty. Like most Americans, I want a leader who has the courage of conviction to keep America exceptional and create a future of promise rather than despair.' Clearly Zinke didn't think much of Boehner's leadership." [Billings Gazette, Editorial Board, [9/30/15](#)]

***Billings Gazette: Zinke's Comments On Boehner Showed "Zinke's Mind Isn't Running The Country And Finding Solutions; Instead, It's Finding Someone Who Will Stand Up Against Barack Obama."***

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***Billings Gazette: Zinke Rhetoric "Landed Us In A Constant Cycle Of Shutdown Threats."***

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**Billings Gazette: “Zinke’s Own Words Seem Polarizing And Extreme.”**

“Seven-out-of-10 Americans do not want the government to shutdown. Even a majority of those who identify as ‘Republicans’ do not favor a shutdown, according to a recent Quinnipiac poll. And yet the United States House of Representatives is in flux because of the showdown over the shutdown, Planned Parenthood and John Boehner stepping down. [...] Zinke’s own words seem polarizing and extreme. Washington bureaucrats who have hijacked the U.S. Constitution? Really? That sounds like some soundbyte from conservative radio talkshow. The last time we checked, the U.S. Constitution is still being used and followed. What Zinke may be trying to say, no matter how clumsily, is that courts and voters have not done what he believes is right. That’s fine. But that’s also our system of government -- the same government of which he is a part. Just because a Congressman doesn’t agree with a President, a Speaker or another group doesn’t mean that the Constitution has been hijacked. However, by employing that language, he immediately vilifies those who don’t agree with him as un-American. Zinke then falls back on the reliable, tired stereotype that the real problem with America is a bunch of far-away government desk jockeys.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial Board, [9/30/15](#)]

**Billings Gazette: “Zinke Says He Wants A Leader That Will Keep America Exceptional And Work For A Bright Future. Beyond The Cliche, The Sentiment Continues Zinke’s Theme Of Insincerity.”**

“Seven-out-of-10 Americans do not want the government to shutdown. Even a majority of those who identify as ‘Republicans’ do not favor a shutdown, according to a recent Quinnipiac poll. And yet the United States House of Representatives is in flux because of the showdown over the shutdown, Planned Parenthood and John Boehner stepping down. [...] Finally, Zinke says he wants a leader that will keep America exceptional and work for a bright future. Beyond the cliché, the sentiment continues Zinke’s theme of insincerity: As if there’s been a politician elected who dreams of a mediocre future and an average tomorrow. When leaders like Zinke continue to make these inflamed statements, that rhetoric and polarization becomes the norm. When voters hear politicians pander with statements like his, it becomes acceptable because -- you know, if our leaders can do it, so can we. The idea behind leadership is that it’s not for everybody; leadership isn’t trying to sound like everybody else. For our part, we -- the voters -- must demand something different. If we accept this kind of behavior, politicians learn that shutting down government or not compromising has no consequences. Every time some politically charged, pandering statement is issued, we must strike back and remind our leaders that their job is to make sure the government runs and is not shut down and that our leaders craft solutions, not statements.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial Board, [9/30/15](#)]

**Billings Gazette: “When Leaders Like Zinke Continue To Make These Inflamed Statements, That Rhetoric And Polarization Becomes The Norm”**

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## **Billings Gazette: Voters Must Demand That Politicians Like Zinke Are Held Accountable For Their Extreme And Inflamed Statements And Demand That Leaders Like Zinke Ensure The Government Runs**

Seven-out-of-10 Americans do not want the government to shutdown. Even a majority of those who identify as ‘Republicans’ do not favor a shutdown, according to a recent Quinnipiac poll. And yet the United States House of Representatives is in flux because of the showdown over the shutdown, Planned Parenthood and John Boehner stepping down. [...] Finally, Zinke says he wants a leader that will keep America exceptional and work for a bright future. Beyond the cliché, the sentiment continues Zinke’s theme of insincerity: As if there’s been a politician elected who dreams of a mediocre future and an average tomorrow. When leaders like Zinke continue to make these inflamed statements, that rhetoric and polarization becomes the norm. When voters hear politicians pander with statements like his, it becomes acceptable because -- you know, if our leaders can do it, so can we. The idea behind leadership is that it’s not for everybody; leadership isn’t trying to sound like everybody else. For our part, we -- the voters -- must demand something different. If we accept this kind of behavior, politicians learn that shutting down government or not compromising has no consequences. Every time some politically charged, pandering statement is issued, we must strike back and remind our leaders that their job is to make sure the government runs and is not shut down and that our leaders craft solutions, not statements.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial Board, [9/30/15](#)]

## **Zinke’s Position Against A Federal Land Transfer Of Public Land Clashed With The Montana GOP’s Policy Platform, Made Tea Partyers In Montana Unhappy**

“Zinke has been basking in the praise of outdoor recreation advocates since voting last week against the joint budget resolution that passed the House 226-197. Zinke was one of 14 House Republicans who joined all 183 Democrats in voting against the resolution. [...] ‘The Senate put a provision in there that spoke to selling or transferring public lands,’ Zinke told them. ‘And to me, that’s a non-starter ... in Montana, our public lands are part of our heritage.’ He also said he supported reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and that it will pass Congress with a few changes. Zinke’s position against a federal land transfer clashes with the Montana GOP’s policy platform, which supports ‘granting federally managed public lands to the states.’ Zinke’s stance has made tea partyers in Montana unhappy.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [5/6/15](#)]

**Headline: “Zinke: Selling Public Lands Is A ‘Non-Starter.’”** [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [5/6/15](#)]

## **Radio Guests Criticized Zinke’s Book, “High Ambitions”**

In 2016, MTPR hosts on “Campaign Beat” criticized Zinke’s plan to publish his book. A summary read, “Rep. Ryan Zinke has a new book in the works about his time as a Commander at SEAL Team 6, ‘not something that he’s ever been prone to hide,’ [Sally] Mauk notes. ‘My sense is this is a little unusual for a member of congress to write a book, especially such an early career member,’ [UM Political Science Professor Rob] Saldin says. ‘We typically see this from people who are on the more ambitious side and who are looking to move up. For presidential candidates it’s almost now a prerequisite that you have to write a book. All of the presidential candidates out there have books. These tend to not be great works of literature. They tend to more be trying to present themselves as candidates in a way that they want to resonate, and to lay out part of their agenda. I think we see a little bit of this in Zinke’s book.’ ‘I think you have someone here who has high ambitions,’ Chuck Johnson says. ‘Whether to run for the U.S. Senate seat against Jon Tester, or beyond. Will he become a cabinet member or a commander of some kind? I don’t know, but I don’t think you’ll see Ryan Zinke staying in the Montana House seat for long.’” [MTPR.org, Campaign Beat, [2/26/16](#)]

## **Zinke Attacked for Voting Against St. Legislators Disclosing Travel Costs & Payments for Meetings**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “The Lewis campaign also said Ryan Zinke, as a state senator in 2011, voted against requiring state legislators to disclose costs and payments to attend meetings and conferences. On Saturday, Zinke had this to say about Senate Bill 158: ‘I voted against the bill because it was

too convoluted. All too often well meaning legislation ends up creating greater ambiguity.” [Great Falls Tribune, 9/07/14]

### **Zinke Said Congress Needed More “Team-Building” Activities**

According to KFGO.com, “Zinke, a freshman Republican and former U.S. Navy Seal, said Congress could use more ‘team-building’ activities, but he has not felt the need for more days in legislative session. Zinke is the only House member representing the large, sparsely populated state of Montana, and says he needs lots of travel time just to see his constituents. ‘Last week I think I put on about 2,500 miles (4,000 km) traveling around Montana, and I saw about a third of the state,’ he said.” [KFGO.com, [2/01/16](#)]

### **Zinke Held \$10,000 Per Couple Fundraiser with Speaker Boehner**

According to the *Daily Inter Lake*, “a fundraiser was held on Aug. 20 for Ryan Zinke, Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, at which attendees paid \$10,000 per couple to participate in a ‘roundtable discussion’ with Zinke and House Speaker John Boehner, or \$1,000 to attend a reception with them. About 100 people attended the event at a private home in Whitefish. Zinke is quoted as saying, ‘...the makeup of the audience really represented all parts of the Republican party...’” [Daily Inter Lake, 9/02/14; Whitefish Pilot, 8/27/10]

### **Zinke’s Conservative Credentials Were Questioned**

According to the *Daily Inter Lake*, “Some of his primary opponents and prominent Republicans questioned Zinke’s conservative credentials and his stance on abortion, although he since has been endorsed by the National Right-to-Life Association and Montana Right-to-Life.” [Daily Inter Lake, 10/18/14]

### **Zinke 2016 Fundraiser Invite “at the Home of Lola and Congressman Ryan Zinke; Santa Barbara, CA”**



"Justin Fareed is a natural leader and the kind that Congress needs more of. As a retired Naval officer, I appreciate a man of strong character and mental toughness, who understands that the mission is greater than any one person. Only by working together can we begin to engineer the long-term solutions to the serious challenges our nation faces." – *Congressman Ryan Zinke, U.S. Navy SEAL Commander (retired)*

Please Join

Lola and Congressman Ryan Zinke  
Tony Brown      Jon Jorgensen  
Thomas Goodson      Patrick Jon Pflipsen

\*Partial Listing

For a reception with

**JUSTIN FAREED**

Candidate for California's 24th District  
for the United States House of Representatives

Thursday, March 24, 2016

at the home of Lola and Congressman Ryan Zinke  
Santa Barbara, California  
Address provided upon RSVP

5:30 PM Host Committee Reception - \$1,000 per person  
6:00 PM General Reception - \$250 Suggested Contribution

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW RSVP INFORMATION](#) or email [info@crystalrowland.com](mailto:info@crystalrowland.com)

Questions? Call [310-648-7707](tel:310-648-7707)

[Zinke for Congress fundraising email, 3/15/16]

### **Zinke Previously Held Fundraiser in Santa Barbara, CA Where Wife Had Moved Temporarily to Care for Her Sick Mom**

In 2014, Zinke came under criticism for a fundraiser in an unincorporated suburb of Santa Barbara, CA called Hope Ranch when campaign signs were posted and drew protest. According to the *Helena Independent Record*, "Zinke said his wife, Lola, originally is from Santa Barbara, and moved there this winter to care for her mother, who is suffers from an aging disease. He was going to be on the campaign trail in Montana. Lola Zinke and her mother, Consuelo Hand, will be in back in Whitefish again this summer. He said his mother-in-law, consulate to Peru in the Eisenhower administration, has lived with them for three years. The *Santa Barbara Independent* said Lola is the daughter of Fred Hand, a prominent Santa Barbara businessman in the 1960s who has a street named after him. Zinke said he was in Santa Barbara visiting his wife and mother-in-law, who needs help. Some friends there were kind enough to sponsor a fundraiser there, he said." [Helena Independent Record, [5/14/14](#)]

### **Held Campaign Event in Santa Barbara**

In May 2014, the *Helena Independent Record* reported that Zinke held a campaign fundraiser in Santa Barbara, where he wife was from. [Helena Independent Record, [5/14/14](#)]

### **Held Fundraiser in Carpinteria, CA**

On February 26, 2014, Zinke held a fundraiser in Carpinteria, California, which was advertised by the Ventura County Tea Party. [Ventura County Tea Party, accessed [5/15/14](#)]

### **1137 5<sup>th</sup> St., Imperial Beach, CA 91931**

In July 2003, Zinke and his wife purchased this property for \$597,000 from William H. and Kathleen Moore Farling (trustee/conservator). The property was purchased with a Countrywide Bank fixed-rate mortgage for \$447,750. [San Diego County Assessment Record, APN 632-081-27]

### **Sold Property in January 2006**

According to the deed, Zinke and his wife sold this property to Robert and Mary Ann Schoultz for \$817,000. [San Diego County Deed Record, APN 632-081-27]

## SAY ANYTHING... TO GET ELECTED

- ✓ Zinke took a hard-right turn sometime after his first run for office in 2008. It would seem he discovered, an ability to tap into hard-core conservative voters, to whom his veteran status probably held a special appeal.
- ✓ Zinke's 'change of heart' has lead many Republicans to question his actual intentions. He's been criticized for being too liberal, as a "phony" Republican, and accused of flip-flopping.
- ✓ ...However, much more recent examples show Zinke's willingness to say anything to get elected – such as his reversal on equal pay.
- ✓ In 2008, Zinke was uncomfortable with the government interfering with a woman's right to chose, but in 2015, he declared "I believe in the Sanctity of Life."
- ✓ In his 2014 election, he claimed to support "equal pay for equal work." However, in 2015 he voted against it and sought to block it from even getting a vote.
- ✓ He claimed to support the death penalty, and then voted twice to abolish it.
- ✓ He claimed to support funding for college affordability, and voted against \$15 million for the Montana University System.
- ✓ He said Common Core was a "Disaster" for Montana schools, but the Billings Gazette called him out for incorrectly claiming the federal government coerced Montana into the state-created educational standards.
- ✓ He wrote a letter to the President calling to address climate change, and then called for an end to the "war on fossil fuels."
- ✓ He called himself a "Teddy Roosevelt Republican... I am about conservation", but voted over and over again against protecting the environment.
- ✓ He claimed was "undecided" on background checks on gun sales and gun shows, stronger state restrictions on gun, but then stressed his support for the right to own guns and ammo.
- ✓ He supported gun purchase background checks, until he opposed them.
- ✓ He supported transferring public lands to the state, selling off those lands, but then he claimed to no longer support selling off public lands.
- ✓ He was "undecided" on REAL ID, but in 2016 he proposed the "Repeal REAL ID Act."

## CONSERVATIVES QUESTION HIS INTENTIONS

### **Zinke's Conservative Credentials Were Questioned**

According to the *Daily Inter Lake*, “Some of his primary opponents and prominent Republicans questioned Zinke’s conservative credentials and his stance on abortion, although he since has been endorsed by the National Right-to-Life Association and Montana Right-to-Life.” [Daily Inter Lake, 10/18/14]

### **Zinke Disliked Common Core, But Said He Would Support It if Local School Board Voted to Do So**

In 2014, the *Missoulian* reported, “Ryan Zinke, the Republican candidate for the U.S. House, has expressed his dislike of Common Core, though he also has said that he would support the standards if local school boards voted to do so as well. Speaking at a rally in Red Lodge on Thursday, Zinke called Common Core a government program that represents just one more federal regulation. ‘Two things made America great: innovation and the ability to think outside the box, and Common Core is destroying this,’ the *Carbon County News* quoted Zinke as saying. ‘We need a holistic approach to education or Common Core will quickly become the lowest common denominator.’” [Missoulian, 10/18/14]

### **Libertarian Said Zinke Had More in Common with NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg Than Montana**

In 2014, Libertarian Mike Fellows “said Zinke has more in common with former ‘New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg than the people of Montana’ when it comes to gun rights.” [Hungry Horse News, 10/15/14]

### **Rep. Matthew Monforton Called Zinke A Phony Republican**

“On the same day a Manhattan farmer entered the race for House District 69, incumbent Rep. Matthew Monforton said he will not seek re-election. ‘The Montana Republican Party will always be a charade until we stop Democrat activists from infiltrating our primaries and electing phony ‘Republicans’ like Ryan Zinke and Walt Sales,’ Monforton told the Chronicle. ‘I will therefore not seek re-election to House District 69 and instead focus on our pending suit challenging Montana’s antiquated and corrupt primary system.’” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [10/8/15](#)]

### **2 Former Republican Chairman Came Out Against Zinke**

In May 2014, former Representative Rick Hill and State Senator John Brenden, both former Montana Republican Party chairmen, joined Miller in speaking out against Zinke. Hill said, “Ryan is trying to characterize himself as a staunch conservative and that’s just not his record. If Montanans want to nominate a quite moderate Republican, I’m OK with that. I just want to make sure they know what they’re doing.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 5/06/14]

### **Republicans Accused of Flip Flopping**

In April 2014, Ken Miller, a former Republican candidate for Governor and former Chair of the Montana Republican Party sent an email to his supporters, which detailed why Republicans should not vote for Zinke. Miller said, “As a State Senator, there is just one consistent thread throughout his tenure: inconsistency. He asserted himself as a John Kerry protégé flip-flop-flip-flop-flip-flopper. Wall Street fat cats and DC big wigs are pumping hundreds of thousands of dollars of outside money to ‘re-brand’ him.” [Intelligent Discontent, 4/29/14]

## **CHOICE & WOMEN’S ISSUES**

### **Voted Against Stripping Language Prohibiting Federal Money for Abortion In NIH & FDA Funding**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against “a Democratic amendment to strip bill language added in the final stages that would make policy riders in the fiscal 2016 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill – including those prohibiting federal dollars for abortion – applicable to the NIH and FDA funding stream.” The amendment failed, 176 to 245. [HR 6, [Vote #432](#), 7/10/15; CQ News, [7/10/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I Believe In The Sanctity Of Life.”** “I believe in the sanctity of life.”

[Twitter, @RepRyanZinke, [5/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Health of Mother Exception to 20-Wk Abortion Ban**

May 2015, Zinke voted against: “Brownley, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would add an exception to the 20-week abortion ban for abortions necessary to save the health of the pregnant woman.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 181-246. [CQ, [5/13/15](#); H.R. 36, Vote 222, [5/13/15](#)]

### **...BUT Wary of Allowing Government to Decide if a Woman Could Get an Abortion**

In February 2011, while the House debated a bill that would require women to have an ultrasound before they obtained an abortion, Zinke said that he was wary of giving the government the power to decide if a woman can get an abortion. Zinke further said that he would rather have that decision be made by a woman in consultation with her family and her church. [Char-Koosta News, 2/03/11]

### **...BUT Voted Against Calling “the Protection of Unborn Life a Compelling State Interest”**

In February 2009, Zinke voted against amending the Montana Constitution to add “the protection of unborn human life is a compelling state interest.” The bill passed (28-22). [[SB 46, 2/20/09](#)]

### **...BUT Voted Against Defining a Person at Conception**

In February 2009, Zinke voted against a bill to constitutionally define a person as “a human being at all stages of human development of life, including the state of fertilization or conception, regardless of age, health, level of functioning, or condition of dependency.” The bill passed (26-24). [[SB 406, 2/26/09](#)]

### **...BUT Zinke in 2008: “Decision to Abort a Child is the Providence of God and Family”**

On the 2008 Political Courage Test of Project Vote Smart, Zinke said that the “difficult to decision to abort a child is the providence of god and family, not government.” Zinke said, “I am pro-life, but believe that the difficult decision to Abort a child is the providence of God and family, not government. I support streamlining the adoption process to healthy and qualified homes. I further support parental notification.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Indicated that Abortion Should only be Legal Within the First Trimester**

On the 2008 Political Courage Test for Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that abortion should only be legal within the first trimester of pregnancy. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Indicated that Abortions Should be Legal In Instances of Incest or Rape**

On the 2008 Political Courage Test for Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that abortions should be legal in instances of incest or rape. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Indicated that Abortions Should be Legal When the Life of the Woman is Endangered**

On the 2008 Political Courage Test for Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that abortions should be legal when the life of the woman is endangered. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Opposed Allowing Pharmacists to Refuse to Dispense Emergency Contraception**

On the 2008 Political Courage Test of Project Vote Smart, Zinke opposed allowing pharmacists who conscientiously object to emergency contraception to refuse to dispense it. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed to Support “Equal Pay for Equal Work”**

According to the *Billings Gazette*, “Zinke also said he supports equal pay for equal work, and that wages and job opportunities for women need to be improved.” The *Gazette* reported, “In response, his Republican opponent, Ryan Zinke, said women play an essential role in this country and he favors equal pay for equal work, and backs efforts to improve wages and job opportunities for women. [Billings Gazette, 9/20/14, 9/18/14]

### **...BUT Voted Against Motion for Equal Pay By Excluding Claims of Employment Discrimination from Bill**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against on Democratic motion to recommit with instructions HR 758. “The Democratic Motion to Recommit protects women’s right to demand equal wages, by excluding claims of employment discrimination from the underlying bill that raises new obstacles for Americans to seek remedy in the courts.” The motion to recommit failed 179 to 239. [HR 758, [Vote #500](#), 9/17/15; Democratic Motion to Recommit, HR 758, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Voted 2X to Block Consideration of the Paycheck Fairness Act**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that would end the pay gap between men and women and ensure equal pay for equal work. “The legislation would protect workers from retaliation for sharing information about their wages, require employers to explain any pay disparities among workers performing the same job, and allow employees to seek unlimited punitive damages in wage bias cases.” The previous question passed 239 to 183. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. The previous question passed 240 to 183. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered [H. Res. 189, [Vote #148](#), 4/14/15; Bloomberg, [4/14/15](#); Congressional Record, [4/14/15](#); Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [4/14/15](#); H. Res. 200, [Vote #154](#), 4/15/15; Bloomberg, [4/14/15](#); Congressional Record, [4/15/15](#); Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [4/15/15](#)]

## **DEATH PENALTY ISSUES**

### **Supported Death Penalty, Then Voted to Abolish It**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support of the death penalty. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **...BUT Voted to Abolish the Death Penalty**

In February 2009, Zinke voted to abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. The bill passed (27-23). [[SB 236](#), [2/17/09](#)]

### **Again Voted to Abolish the Death Penalty**

In February 2011, Zinke again voted to abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. The bill passed (26-24). [[SB 185](#), [2/15/11](#)]

## **EDUCATION ISSUES**

### **Zinke Voted Against \$15M for the Montana University System**

In 2011, as state senator, Zinke voted against an amendment that would have provided \$15 million in additional funding to the Montana University System to be distributed directly to campuses. [MEA-MEFT 2011 [Voting Record](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for a State Budget that Increased College Tuition Rates to Address Budget Shortfalls**

In 2011, Zinke voted for the state biennium budget that included \$14 million less in funding for the higher education than Governor Schweitzer’s proposed budget. Tuition rates had to be increased by 10% in order to address the shortfalls. [HB 2, [4/28/11](#); Montana Budget & Policy Center, [7/01/11](#)]

### **...BUT Supported Providing State Funding for College Affordability**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for providing state funding for tax incentives and financial aid to help make college more affordable. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **MTN News: “Zinke Said Common Core Has Been A ‘Disaster’ For Montana Schools.”**

“A federal education bill replacing the much-maligned No Child Left Behind law is poised to pass Congress – and getting praise from Republicans and Democrats. U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, (R-Mont.), who voted for the measure Wednesday, called it a ‘win for Montana K-12 students’ and said it will greatly reduce federal

requirements tied to testing results. [...] Zinke said Common Core has been a ‘disaster’ for Montana schools and that he joined a majority ‘to roll back Common Core and return local control of K-12 education to the families and teachers of Montana students.’ [...] Zinke also noted the bill includes provisions that he had requested, to allow more money to be used for digital learning resources in rural schools.” [MTN News, [12/4/15](#)]

### **...BUT *Billings Gazette* Called Out Zinke’s Incorrect Claim the Federal Govt. Coerced MT into Common Core**

In 2015, a *Billings Gazette* editorial read, “While we applaud Zinke’s support for the long-overdue update [passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, S 1177], **his statement on his vote is incorrect in implying that the federal government coerced Montana to adopt Common Core. In fact, the Common Core effort is a state-led response to pleas from U.S. businesses and the Department of Defense to raise the bar on public education quality.** Top state education officials from across the nation spearheaded the core development. It was each individual state’s decision whether or not to adopt these reading and math standards. The Montana Board of Public Education adopted the Montana Common Core after a public, multi-year process. **The federal government didn’t require Montana to adopt the state’s reading and math standards and didn’t reward Montana for adopting them.**” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [12/15/15](#)]

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

### **Called to End War on Fossil Fuels**

In February 2014, Zinke said, we need to “stop the war on fossil fuels.” Zinke said, “We also need to work on becoming energy independent, stopping the war on fossil fuels and investing in our infrastructure. Imagine the geopolitical implications of not being held hostage to foreign oil? We can’t power this nation and bring back manufacturing on pixy dust and hope.” [Hungry Horse News, 2/10/14]

### **Inconsistent: Previously Called to Get Off Oil**

In March 2012, while campaigning in Bigfork, Zinke said “we’re ultimately going to have to get off oil.” Zinke said, “We’re ultimately going to have to get off oil, but want to do it on our own terms. It’s going to be a very unpopular first two years. People will be nervous about rapid changes.” [Bigfork Eagle, 3/14/12]

### **Inconsistent Again: Wanted to Move Forward from Alternative Fuels**

In May 2014, during an interview on NBC Montana, Zinke said that he was “not against alternative fuels, but we need to move forward.” Zinke said, “Certainly I’m not against alternative fuels, but we need to move forward. And certainly it is better to produce it in North America than it is to be held hostage overseas. And energy will bring back manufacturing. I think the gas play’s enormous in this country.” [NBC Montana, [5/09/14](#)]

### **...BUT Zinke Wrote 2010 Letter to Obama Calling to Address Climate Change**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Kathy Weber, the Lewis campaign’s communications director: ‘Sen. Zinke wrote a letter to President Obama urging him to address climate change in 2010 and today he suddenly believes humans have nothing to do with climate change.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/15/14]

### **Called Himself “a Teddy Roosevelt Republican... I am About Conservation”**

In January 2009, in his first month of serving as a State Senator, Zinke called himself “a Teddy Roosevelt Republican” and said he was “about conservation.” Zinke said, “I’m a Teddy Roosevelt Republican and I have to explain that. You know, I look back 100 years of Presidents that I thought had it right. And Teddy Roosevelt didn’t do everything right, but 90 percent of the time, I think he was spot-on. And Teddy Roosevelt broke the monopolies but he wasn’t pro-labor or pro-business, he was pro-fair. So I am about jobs, I am about conservation, and I’m about education.” [YouTube, [1/15/09](#)]

### **...BUT Voted to Exempt Stimulus Projects from the Montana Environmental Policy Act**

In February 2009, Zinke voted to exempt economic stimulus projects from the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The bill passed (29-21). [[SB 481](#), [2/25/09](#)]

## **GUN & HUNTERS' ISSUES**

### **Zinke Stressed His Support for the Right to Own Guns & Ammo**

Zinke's 2016 campaign website read, "'There are some things that are not negotiable: Faith, Family, the Constitution... and you better add guns and land if you're a Montanan.'" – Ryan Zinke ... Ryan is a fifth generation Montanan who grew up right outside Glacier National Park. Whether it's defending our right to bear arms or ensuring mixed use of our beautiful public lands, Ryan knows that it's our core Montana values that make Montana the Last Best Place. Ryan's love and appreciation for Montana's outdoor heritage began early and still continues to grow to this day. Ryan is one of the most outspoken advocates for better federal management of public lands and continues to introduce and support bipartisan legislation to ensure public access and traditional mixed use. Ryan is a staunch advocate of our right to bear arms. He believes our Second Amendment rights protect all the others. **Ryan fully supports the rights of lawful gun and ammo ownership and he will not tolerate anyone trying to take that away through Congressional or Executive action.**

[[RyanZinke.com](#), accessed [3/05/16](#)]

### **...BUT Open to Background Checks on Gun Sales & Gun Shows**

In 2008, Zinke said he was "undecided" on whether background checks should be required on gun sales between private citizens and gun shows. [Project VoteSmart, 2008 [Political Courage Test](#)]

### **...BUT Open to Stronger State Restrictions on Guns**

In 2008, Zinke listed himself as "undecided" on stronger state restrictions on guns. [Project VoteSmart, 2008 [Political Courage Test](#)]

### **Zinke Criticized for Waffling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment with Guns in Schools & .50-Cal Rifles**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, "The Montana Democratic Party this week responded by claiming GOP House candidate Ryan Zinke has waffled on whether guns belong in schools, and whether .50-caliber rifles are too dangerous for civilians to own.... Kathy Lewis, communications director for the Lewis campaign [said,] 'The Montana GOP seems to have forgotten that its own leaders have been critical of Ryan Zinke for his record of waffling on the Second Amendment.'" [Great Falls Tribune, Political Pulse Column, [9/09/14](#)]

### **Supported Background Checks**

In 2008, Zinke said that he believed "background checks are prudent and necessary." Zinke said, "I believe that background checks are prudent and necessary." [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **...BUT 6 Yrs Later: Zinke said that Federal ID System for Weapons was Not a Good Idea**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said that he no longer believed that a federal ID system for weapons was a good idea. Zinke said, "Now do I think we, that, that checks, that a federal ID system is a good idea? Not anymore. Not with NSA, not with the IRS, not with the other database abuses. So I think actually the local sheriff should make the call. That's where I am on weapons." [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

## **PUBLIC LANDS**

### **Zinke Stressed Protecting Mixed Use of Public Lands**

Zinke's 2016 campaign website read, "'There are some things that are not negotiable: Faith, Family, the Constitution... and you better add guns and land if you're a Montanan.'" – Ryan Zinke ... Ryan is a fifth generation Montanan who grew up right outside Glacier National Park. Whether it's defending our right to bear arms or **ensuring mixed use of our beautiful public lands**, Ryan knows that it's our core Montana values that

make Montana the Last Best Place. Ryan's love and appreciation for Montana's outdoor heritage began early and still continues to grow to this day. Ryan is one of the most outspoken advocates for better federal management of public lands and continues to introduce and support bipartisan legislation to ensure public access and traditional mixed use. Ryan is a staunch advocate of our right to bear arms. He believes our Second Amendment rights protect all the others. Ryan fully supports the rights of lawful gun and ammo ownership and he will not tolerate anyone trying to take that away through Congressional or Executive action.”  
[RyanZinke.com, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

### **...BUT Zinke Attacked for Previously Supporting Transfer of Public Lands to the State**

According to the *AP*, “The Zinke and Lewis campaigns have been shaped over issues such as managing public lands, the Affordable Care Act, energy, and women and families. Lewis has hit hard on the issue of transferring federally managed public lands to the state, in part because Zinke signed a pledge two years ago that included the idea and because the state's Republican Party added it to their platform... Zinke has said he no longer believes in transferring lands to the state but wants to require that local governments have a say in their management.” [AP, 11/05/14]

### **...BUT Zinke Was Attacked in Mailers & Ads for Supporting Efforts to Sell Off Public Lands**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Lewis has tried to hammer on Zinke, accusing the Republican in television ads and campaign mailers of supporting efforts to sell off federal public land.” [Great Falls Tribune, 11/02/14]

### **...BUT Zinke Was Attacked in Ad for Supporting Selling Off Public Lands**

In 2014, Zinke's opponent, John Lewis, aired an ad attacking Zinke on public land issues. According to the *Great Falls Tribune*, “In a 30-second TV spot released Monday afternoon, a narrator clumsily sings a political verse to the tune of Woody Guthrie's classic ‘This Land is Your Land.’ Here's the verse from the ad: ‘This land is your land, this land our land, but Ryan Zinke, would sell it off, man; to the highest bidder, to out-of-state-billionaires, with Zinke, less access for you and me. He sold more elk tags, to out-of-staters, and got a zero, from the Sportsmen Alliance, with Zinke, less access for you and me.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/07/14]

### **Ad Support Included Ryan Budget, 2011 Votes, 2012 Pledge**

The *Tribune* reported, “The ad, which was paid for and approved by Lewis' campaign, cites in part Zinke's stated support for the Ryan Budget, a handful of votes Zinke cast in the 2011 Montana Legislature, Zinke's stated opposition to passage of the North Fork Watershed Protection Act, and Zinke's 2012 signing of a Montana Constitutional Governance Pledge that calls for turning federal land over to the states.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/07/14]

### **Zinke Public Lands Votes**

The *Tribune* reported, “The legislative criticism centers on three bills from the 2011 session: Senate Bill 301 would have put a moratorium on the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Park's purchase of new land, including fishing access sites, state parks and wildlife management areas. Zinke voted with Senate Republicans to pass the measure, but it died in a House committee. House Bill 209 would have eliminated a statutory appropriation for one fund and would have reallocated revenues in another fund that are used to acquire and maintain land for wildlife habitat and public access. Zinke voted with Republicans in the Senate to pass the measure, but it was vetoed by then-Gov. Brian Schweitzer. SB 400 would have allowed FWP to sell an additional 2,000 non-resident elk/deer combination licenses. A fiscal note attached to the bill projected the measure would have raised \$1,875,920 for the department, but many sportsmen's groups opposed it because it would have resulted in up to 2,000 more non-resident hunters competing with resident hunters and would have led to more commercialization of public land hunting. Zinke voted with Senate Republicans to pass the measure, but it later died in a House committee.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/07/14]

### **...BUT Supported a “Land Grab” Bill That Opened Unprecedented Development on Public Lands**

Zinke supports a DC written bill that would turn over Montana’s public lands to out-of-state developers and jeopardize access to hunting and fishing. [Billings Gazette, [8/31/14](#); Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [2/17/14](#); KPAX, [1/15/14](#)]

### **...BUT Zinke Supported Plan to Sell Off Our Public Lands**

In 2014, Zinke supported the budget by Rep. Paul Ryan that proposed paying off the national debt by selling public off our public lands. [Congressional GOP Debate, [5/28/14](#); Billings Gazette, [6/28/14](#)]

## **REAL ID**

### **Zinke Proposed the “Repeal Real ID Act”**

In 2016, Zinke proposed the “Repeal Real ID Act” that created federal mandates for driver’s licenses included in the Real ID Act of 2005. According to the *Great Falls Tribune*, “The Montana Legislature in 2007 voted unanimously not to comply with the federal law.” The *Tribune* noted, “Zinke said it was important to ensure state’s rights. ‘While maintaining security standards is important, we cannot allow the federal government to infringe on our right to privacy and strip Montana of our state sovereignty,’ he said via email.” [Great Falls Tribune, 1/13/16]

*NOTE: Sen. Tester co-authored the Senate version.*

### **...BUT Was Undecided if Montana Should Participate in Federal REAL ID Program in 2008**

In 2008, Zinke was undecided if Montana should participate in the federal REAL ID program, but supported requiring a valid Montana ID for all elections. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## TOO EXTREME

- ✓ Zinke has run hard-right since going to Congress. He has refused to comment on whether he supported efforts to remove House Speaker John Boehner, who some extreme conservatives criticized as too moderate.
- ✓ Zinke called Steve Scalise a “Pipe Hitter” – someone who is willing to go to the extreme in order to get things accomplished.
- ✓ He called Hillary Clinton “the Antichrist” and said of the President “I’m a Christian so I try to not to hate anybody, do I think this president is a good man? The answer is no.”
- ✓ He receives personal tweets from the President of Halliburton.
- ✓ He praised Ben Carson as “very calming.”
- ✓ He suggested Americans with a mother who is a U.S. citizens should not be able to become President, citing Churchill.
- ✓ He supported a censure of the President (he pronounced “censor”), but hedged on impeachment.
- ✓ He was criticized for using canned phrases designed to scare people and insight false outrage.
- ✓ He was endorsed by former Vice President Dick Cheney.
- ✓ He claimed Newt Gingrich was a “senior advisor” to the campaign, then was forced to acknowledge he was not a paid advisor.
- ✓ He also bragged about Allen West’s support for his campaign.
- ✓ In 2014, Zinke called for the President’s impeachment.

### **Zinke Voted to Designate 9/11 Memorial at WTC Site as a National Memorial, But Not in National Park System**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for the: “MacArthur, R-N.J., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would designate the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center site in New York City as a national memorial, but not a unit of the National Park System. Additionally, the bill would allow the Interior Department, for a maximum of seven years, to award a single grant per year to a nonprofit for the operation and maintenance of a memorial commemorating the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on Feb. 26, 1993.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 387-12. [CQ, [2/9/15](#); H.R. 3036, Vote 64, [2/9/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted the Ag. Secretary Responsible for Site & Design Proposals for the National Liberty Memorial**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a: “McClintock (R-CA), motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would make the Agriculture secretary responsible for reviewing and approving site and design proposals for the

National Liberty Memorial in Washington, D.C.” The motion was approved 402-0. [CQ, [9/16/15](#), H.R. 1949, Vote 496, [9/16/15](#)]

### **KXLH: Zinke’s Staff Refused to Say Whether He Supported Efforts to Remove Boehner**

“Montana’s only U.S. House member, Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke, said Friday it took ‘great courage’ for House Speaker John Boehner to resign – but wouldn’t say whether he supports Boehner’s surprising exit as the chamber’s top leader. Zinke released a statement early Friday morning after Boehner shocked colleagues by announcing he would resign his post and congressional seat next month. [...] Zinke, through a spokeswoman, declined to elaborate on his statement, or say whether he supports the hard-liner opposition that wanted to remove Boehner.” [KXLH, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Made A Statement On The Resignation Of Speaker John Boehner**

“Today Speaker John Boehner announced he is resigning his position as Speaker of the House and will resign his seat at the end of October. [...] I believe Speaker Boehner’s decision to resign was driven by his love of Country and commitment to restore America’s greatness. It took great courage and one should be reminded that it was only John Boehner who could have brought Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and His Holiness Pope Francis to speak before Congress. Speaker Boehner often said being Speaker is like keeping 235 frogs in a wheelbarrow and getting them to the floor to vote before one hops out -- I’ve been one of the frogs to hop out a few times, and trust me, I get it. Going forward, I will be looking for a Speaker who shows resolve against Barack Obama and the Washington bureaucrats who have hijacked the U.S. Constitution and saddled our children with debt and uncertainty. Like most American’s, I want a leader who has the courage of conviction to keep America exceptional and create a future of promise rather than despair. Speaker Boehner showed that no man is above the institution and I have a great deal of respect for his decision. May God Bless John Andrew Boehner and may God guide us in our selection of the next Speaker.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called Rep. Steve Scalise a “Good Leader,” a “Pipe Hitter”**

[00:19:37] Caller: “Tell me why I should keep supporting the Republican Party when they keep folding to Obama, and not standing up and fighting like we sent you guys there to do?” ZINKE: “[...] Do I think that of the leadership, I can tell you the new members coming in of this new class it includes Steve Russell a Light Colonel that wrote a book ‘Got ‘Em’ he had a large degree of play in capturing Saddam Hussein. You have Martha McSally the first female commanding officer, she flew A-10’s, she’s tough. You have Mia Love out of Utah and she’s just a ball of fire. And there’s at least 20 Congressman that are all business, that have enormous amount of talent. You know, so don’t give up on Congress.” ANNCR: “Because the leadership will change eventually...right?” ZINKE: “Ya and I often times with McCarthy whose the majority leader and Scalise and I tell you they’re pipe hitters, they are tough guys they love our country and they’re good leaders.” [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [4/3/15](#)]

### **Scalise Announced Zinke Would Attend His Annual “Offshore Energy Tour” In The Gulf Of Mexico’s Outer Continental Shelf On April 9th And 10<sup>th</sup>**

“Congressman Steve Scalise (R-La.) today announced he will lead a bipartisan Congressional Delegation on his annual Offshore Energy Tour to an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico’s Outer Continental Shelf on April 9th and 10th. A press conference recapping the tour will take place on April 10th at 11:15 a.m. CST.[...] ‘The 2015 Offshore Energy Tour will provide this diverse, bipartisan group of my colleagues with a better understanding of offshore energy production, which involves cutting-edge technologies, unparalleled safety standards, and world-renowned ingenuity in implementing these large-scale projects,’ Rep. Scalise said.” [Office of Rep. Scalise, Press Release, [4/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Endorsed Steve Scalise For House Leadership**

‘House leadership elections are largely an expectation game. And House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) spent Wednesday trying to show strength. Scalise (R-La.) touted the endorsements of freshman Reps. Mimi Walters (R-Calif.), Barbara Comstock (R-Va.), Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) and Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)

Late Tuesday, Scalise's office blasted out the endorsement of New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith and Pennsylvania Rep. Joe Pitts. Florida's Mario Diaz-Balart joined in Wednesday afternoon.' [Politico, [9/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called Hillary Clinton "The Antichrist" At A Republican Fundraiser In Bigfork**

Reporter asked Zinke, "When you were campaigning, you once called Hillary Rodham Clinton 'the real enemy.' Zinke said, 'That's not really true. I was at a small fund-raiser in Bigfork, Mont. You give your little speech, and at the end of it they said, 'What are the candidates that you think are going to be on the Republican side?' And they said, 'What about Hillary?' I said, 'You mean the Antichrist?'" [New York Times, [3/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "Whether You're A Secretary Of State Or A Senator Or Potentially President Of The United States, You Can't Put Politics First When It Comes To Our Troops."**

Zinke said, "I had just read Bob Gates's book, and I'm sensitive to it because I lost two friends in Benghazi. What I didn't like about it was that in Bob Gates's book — who I respect and served under a Democrat and a Republican president — the decision on the surge was, from Hillary's own words, political. My daughter is a Navy diver. My son-in-law is a Navy SEAL. Whether you're a secretary of state or a senator or potentially president of the United States, you can't put politics first when it comes to our troops." [New York Times, [3/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed Situation In Libya Was "Squarely At The Feet Of This Administration — And Hillary."**

"Republicans are embroiled in broad rehash of Sept. 11, 2001 and the national security policies their party adopted in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. Top Republicans say that re-litigating the Iraq war and fighting about the Patriot Act is fair game, and somewhat useful, as they go through the exercise of picking a presidential nominee. They also say it's politically unhelpful to look backwards, rather than focusing attention on future challenges and foreign policy missteps by President Obama and Hillary Clinton, his first secretary of state and the Democrats' presumptive 2016 nominee. 'Where's the conversation,' asked Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., 'on Libya? Because that's squarely at the feet of this administration — and Hillary. That conversation doesn't come up. Would you, or would you not have, taken out [Libyan dictator Muammar] Gaddafi, given the circumstances we see today?'" [Washington Examiner, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Would Ask Hillary: "Would You, Or Would You Not Have, Taken Out [Libyan Dictator Muammar] Gaddafi, Given The Circumstances We See Today?"**

"Republicans are embroiled in broad rehash of Sept. 11, 2001 and the national security policies their party adopted in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. Top Republicans say that re-litigating the Iraq war and fighting about the Patriot Act is fair game, and somewhat useful, as they go through the exercise of picking a presidential nominee. They also say it's politically unhelpful to look backwards, rather than focusing attention on future challenges and foreign policy missteps by President Obama and Hillary Clinton, his first secretary of state and the Democrats' presumptive 2016 nominee. 'Where's the conversation,' asked Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., 'on Libya? Because that's squarely at the feet of this administration — and Hillary. That conversation doesn't come up. Would you, or would you not have, taken out [Libyan dictator Muammar] Gaddafi, given the circumstances we see today?'" [Washington Examiner, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "I'm A Christian So I Try Not to Hate Anybody, Do I Think This President is a Good Man? The Answer is No."**

"Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said family, faith and the U-S Constitution are most important to him in how he votes in Congress, at a town hall meeting on Friday. When asked about President Obama Zinke said, 'I'm a Christian so I try not to hate anybody,' Zinke said. 'Do i think think this President is a good man? The answer is no. Is his view of the Constitution the same as mine. I don't think so. But I am going to operate under the Constitution. He holds the power under Article II, and I'm going to respect that power. But Congress, under Article I also holds power.'" [KTVQ, [3/15/15](#)]

### Cole Halliburton, President at Halliburton Operating Company Tweeted Zinke

Cole Halliburton tweeted, "[RepRyanZinke](#) You go Congressman. We need more folks like you in DC." [Twitter, RepRyanZinke, [3/9/15](#)]

### Zinke Voted for Paul Ryan for Speaker of the House

In October 2015, Zinke voted for Paul Ryan in the: "Nomination of Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., and Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., for Speaker of the House of Representatives for the remainder of the 114th Congress." Ryan was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives with 236 votes. [CQ, [10/29/15](#); Election of the Speaker, Vote 581, [10/29/15](#)]

### Zinke Said "No One [Was] Going to Pull the Wool Over [Paul Ryan's] Eyes" on the Budget

"There's a looming deadline in Washington that could pose some big problems for all of us. The U.S. will essentially run out of money around November 3rd unless it raises the debt ceiling. [...] Adding to the drama, Democrats want a clean bill while Republicans want deeper spending cuts and other reforms. They're hoping they can elect Paul Ryan of Wisconsin to the Speaker's seat this weeks numbers guru who could save the day. 'No one is going to pull the wool over his eyes,' added Zinke." [WJAR, [10/26/15](#)]

### Zinke Endorsed Paul Ryan for Speaker

"Tuesday night, Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan announced his intention to run for Speaker of the House. Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke, who was an early supporter of Paul Ryan and was considering a run for the position should Rep. Ryan decline, pulled his name from consideration and will fully support Rep. Ryan. 'I'm all in for Paul Ryan for Speaker of the House,' said Rep. Zinke. 'Paul is a leader who has proven his dedication to conservative values time and time again, and I believe he is the best person to unite the American people and lead us into a brighter future. I am humbled by the support I received from Montanans and folks across our country. One thing is clear, the mission is greater than any one person, and only by working together will we advance the cause of freedom and American exceptionalism for future generations. I wholeheartedly and unequivocally support Paul Ryan for the next Speaker of the House.'" [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/21/15](#)]

### Zinke Called Himself a "Constitutional Conservative"

Zinke's 2016 campaign website read, "[Ryan Zinke is a Constitutional conservative](#) who believes in the vision the forefathers laid out which separates powers between the three branches and ensures the sovereignty of our states. As a Navy SEAL, State Senator and now a Member of Congress, Ryan swore an oath to defend the Constitution. His decisions are based on upholding the Constitution and doing what is right for Montana and America." [RyanZinke.com, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

### Zinke Praised Ben Carson as a "Good Conservative"



**Ryan Zinke** @RyanZinke · Mar 2

Ben Carson is a good man and good conservative. I hope to see more of him in the future.

👍 10 ❤️ 20 ⋮

[Twitter, @RyanZinke, 3/02/16]

### **Zinke Suggested Americans with a Mother Who Is a U.S. Citizen Should Not Be Able to Become President, Citing Churchill**

In 2016, Zinke did a radio interview with *Birther Report*, when he was asked about Donald Trump's comments alleging Ted Cruz was ineligible to be president due to his being born in Canada. Zinke responded, "Well, I am and I think he does have a point. Now, I think Ted Cruz is one of the brightest people I've ever been around. Certainly, his focus on the constitution is exactly where it should be. Not being born in the USA, you know, that's an issue. If the bar now is your mother is a US citizen. Well, historically, Churchill, King of Jordan, I know a number of Saudi princes. It opens up Pandora's box. So I think Donald Trump has a point, and I think it would have to be adjudicated at a higher level." [[BirtherReport.com](http://BirtherReport.com), 3/01/16]

*NOTE: Audio from radio interview [3:25]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHEnCjvoR-o&feature=youtu.be>*

### **Zinke Praised Ben Carson as "Very Calming"**

In 2016, Zinke praised Ben Carson saying, "...Then of course you have Ben Carson. You know Ben Carson, wonderful man. I met Ben a couple times. You know Ben, he just, you just like to listen to him because he's very calming. He is, you can tell a scientific mind because that's his background. I just think the field was very strong this year on the Republican side." [[BirtherReport.com](http://BirtherReport.com), 3/01/16]

*NOTE: Audio from radio interview [5:55]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHEnCjvoR-o&feature=youtu.be>*

### **Zinke Supported "Censor" of the President, But Hedged on Impeachment**

In 2016, Zinke was asked about articles of impeachment in Congress against the President. Zinke responded, "Well, I am. And Congressman Yoho and I, we cosponsored a censor [sic] bill because that's far as we could we could take it at the time. And the articles of impeachment are are would be, obviously, the charges would be serious... so even the most egregious thing I've seen with this president, that was he did not act alone. So articles of impeachment I think are a little problematic on that point for that issue. But I do think this president has shown he is lawless and occasionally unconstitutional..." [[BirtherReport.com](http://BirtherReport.com), 3/01/16]

*NOTE: Audio from radio interview [6:45]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHEnCjvoR-o&feature=youtu.be>*

### **Zinke Said the House Could Impeach, But the Senate Couldn't Get the Votes**

In 2016, a guest of the host claimed, "...To hear a Congressman say the same thing that we've said for 7 years now. and that is this particular president, no matter how popular he may or may not be out there is guilty of what we consider to be acts treason... Congress appears to be saying even treason is not really an act of treason any more..." Zinke responded, "...House can impeach, but it has to go over the Senate. The Senate we can't even get 60 votes... It does need to be shaken up because status quo in Washington DC needs to be shaken up." [[BirtherReport.com](http://BirtherReport.com), 3/01/16]

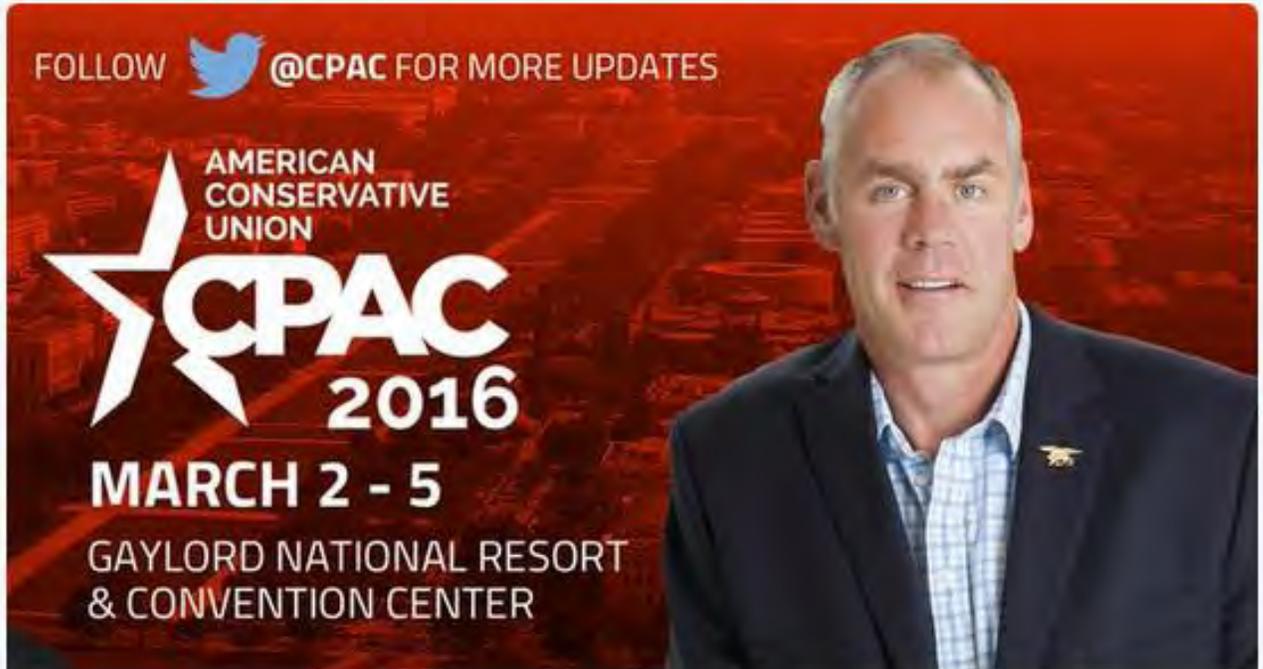
*NOTE: Audio from radio interview [10:39]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHEnCjvoR-o&feature=youtu.be>*

## Zinke Spoke at the CPAC 2016 Conference



Ryan Zinke @RyanZinke · Feb 27

Looking forward to joining @CPAC again this year with @ktmcfarland #tcot #CPAC2016 #OurTimelsNow



[Twitter, @RyanZinke, 2/27/16]

## Zinke Praised Scalia After Passing as a “Loss for Our Entire Nation”

After Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died, “Congressman Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said on his Facebook page that he was astounded at Scalia’s unwavering defense and profound understanding of the Constitution. He said he had met Scalia. ‘This is a deep and saddening loss for our entire nation,’ Zinke said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/14/16]

## Zinke: “Senate Should Advise Obama on Nominee Criteria”

In 2016, Zinke wrote an opinion-editorial for the *Montana Standard* calling on the Senate to advise the President on what they want in a Supreme Court nominee to replace Antonin Scalia. He wrote:

The recent and unexpected death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia sent shockwaves across our nation. I was floored when I heard the news. Although I had only met Justice Antonin Scalia once, his legacy will have a lasting impact on me. Scalia’s longtime “best buddy,” liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg paid tribute to him perfectly: “He was a jurist of captivating brilliance and wit.”

Scalia was a steadfast supporter of the Constitution who made principled decisions based upon what is in the text rather than what he wished was written. It is unfortunate that partisanship took over the conversation before the Justice was even laid to rest.

The partisan bickering and demands to ignore the Constitution that unfolded after Scalia’s death is an affront to his legacy. Scalia dedicated his life to serving the Constitution. It is time for the Senate to honor that service and carry out their constitutionally mandated duty to advise and consent.

To be clear: the Constitution reigns supreme. The president is not a king and he cannot rule this nation based on whatever whim or fancy that pleases him. It is also a well-known fact that it takes two to tango. My colleagues in the Senate have an obligation to provide advice to the president on nominees. Unlike the President and his followers, Republicans in Congress and the majority of Americans believe the Second Amendment guarantees the rights of all law-abiding Americans to bear arms. We believe executive amnesty, the Clean Power Plan and Waters of the U.S. are gross oversteps of executive authority. And we believe forcing the military to transfer prisoners and close Guantanamo Bay Prison is downright criminal.

The reality is that with such a stark difference between the executive and legislative branches, I believe the Senate should fully embrace its constitutional role and advise the president on the type of nominee that should fill Scalia's seat.

Rather than burying their heads in the sand, I would like to see the Senate put forth legitimate standards for a qualified and capable nominee. There is no mandate for the Senate to confirm whomever the president nominates, but they should be proactive and provide sound advice to the president as to whom they would consider.

Any nominee should meet the following requirements:

- Possess unconditional respect for the Constitution and its original intent, knowing decisions must be based upon what is written in the text
- Belief that the Second Amendment guarantees all law-abiding citizens the right to bear arms and that the government may not infringe on that right
- Belief in the separation and balance of power between the executive, legislative and judicial branches, and that no one branch or person is above this
- Belief that the president cannot unilaterally create laws or force agencies to ignore laws

President Obama has a history of writing his own rules and ignoring the laws he doesn't like. This is clearly beyond his constitutional authority, and I have voted every chance possible to stop him in his tracks. Montana Attorney General Tim Fox has brought cases forward at every opportunity to stop Obama's Clean Power Plan, WOTUS, and executive amnesty. With this administration's onerous rules looming in the courts, the severity of the nomination before us can't be overstated.

News recently broke that Obama was floating Nevada Republican Gov. Sandoval as a potential successor. Sandoval withdrew his name because he knew it was nothing more than political gamesmanship to try and cast Republicans as obstructionist. If the president were serious about the governor, he would put his money where his mouth is and actually nominate him rather than using his status as a Republican to browbeat the U.S. Senate. At the same time, I believe the Senate has an equal constitutional duty to advise the president on the characteristics and standards that would define a nominee that would pass that body.

Montanans are tired of this president, with good reason. Whether it is his willingness to trample on his constitutional limitations or his incessant knack for politicizing every possible issue that comes across his desk, we have had enough. But my colleagues in the Senate have a unique opportunity before them. To the Senate I say: Fully embrace your job. Fully embrace the Constitution and proactively define the criteria for who should fill Justice Scalia's shoes. They are big shoes to fill, but America did not give us the congressional majority to do small things. [Montana Standard, Zinke Op-Ed, [3/03/16](#)]

### **Commentator Criticized Zinke for Using Canned Phrases Designed to Scare People & Insight False Outrage**

In 2016, Dan Brooks wrote a commentary for the *Missoula Independent* headlined, "Zinke, Daines defy logic when speaking about Obama's gun plan." Brooks wrote, "President Obama announced plans to take "executive action" on gun violence-to use his control over agencies like the Department of Homeland Security and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to reduce the number of Americans shot and killed each year... Commander Zinke... declared that the president's actions were 'no surprise given his tyrannical record.' 'I challenge this president to stand up and face the biggest threat to America's safety: radical Islamic terrorism,'

he wrote. ‘Rather than allow terrorists to come to our shores and kill our neighbors, , President Obama must fight back and destroy ISIS at their base. Rather than drop pamphlets warning ISIS to flee before we strike, America must strike with resolve and destroy the threat.’ **The astute reader might recognize this policy as remarkably similar to Commander Zinke’s position on global warming...** Both Daines’ and Zinke’s statements were striking in their reliance on boilerplate-ready phrases that allowed them to talk about the president’s gun control plans without actually saying anything... The president’s unconstitutional tyranny does not involve changing any existing laws, nor does it keep anyone from buying any gun he could legally buy before. I agree it fails to stop ISIS, but the Stamp Act it ain’t... **What bothers me about these statements from our Republican delegates to Congress is that they assume we either don’t know what Obama actually proposes to do or don’t care what words mean.** Statements like that reduce public discourse to a war of repetition. They wave the Constitution like a red flag and assume angry Montanans will charge at whatever is behind it, and they cheapen the lines of communication between voter and representative.” [Missoula Independent, Dan Brooks Commentary, 1/14-21/16]

#### **Zinke: “the Person... Who Has Broken the Law is Barack Obama”**

In 2016, Zinke responded to the President’s State of the Union by saying, “Under this Administration, law-abiding Americans feel persecuted. The President and his allies speak of gun owners as if we are criminals, however the person in the House Chamber tonight who has broken the law is Barack Obama. His refusal to abide by the Constitutional limits he swore to protect is the behavior of a king, not a president. The President, by his own admission, has done nothing to bring Americans together, rather he has driven us apart. After seven years, this President has become like the emperor with no clothes: full of pride and blind to reality. Thank God this is his last State of the Union.” [States News Service, 1/12/16]

#### **Voted For Boehner For Speaker Of The House**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for John Boehner to be Speaker of the House. Boehner received 216 votes, and Nancy Pelosi received 164 votes. [Election to the Speaker, [Vote #2](#), 1/06/15]

#### **Zinke Was Criticized for Being Endorsed by former Vice President Dick Cheney**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Montana’s Democratic Party criticized Ryan Zinke over an endorsement, tweeted via Billings-area state Rep. Tom McGillvray, from former Vice President Dick Cheney. Cheney was quoted as saying Zinke’s military knowledge was needed in Congress. Democrats claimed Zinke is turning to Cheney, who pushed for the post-Sept. 11 invasion of Iraq, for help in bailing out Zinke’s supposedly ‘floundering campaign.’ Shelby De-Mars, communications director for the Zinke campaign, said Tuesday: ‘We’re incredibly excited to have the support of former Vice President Dick Cheney.’ She said Zinke and Cheney agree on the need for a strong national defense.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/15/14]

#### **Called Newt Gingrich a “Senior Advisor” to the Campaign**

In January 2014, Zinke called Newt Gingrich a “senior advisor to the campaign.” Zinke said, “He is a senior advisor to the campaign.” [Bigfork Eagle, 1/30/14]

#### **One Week Later: Clarified that Gingrich Was Not Actually a Paid Advisor**

One week later, Zinke clarified that Gingrich was not actually a paid advisor to his campaign. Zinke said, “Newt Gingrich and I have had multiple conversations back and forth and we’ve exchanged multiple e-mails. Newt is the one who advised me that Washington can be fixed. And he’s the one who convinced me that Washington can be fixed.” [Daily Inter Lake, 2/03/14]

#### **January 2014: Called Hillary Clinton the “Anti-Christ”**

At a January 27, 2014 campaign event, Zinke said “we need to focus on the real enemy,” referring to Hillary Clinton, who he called the “anti-Christ.” [Bigfork Eagle, 1/30/14]

### **One Week Later: “It was Perhaps a Little Harsh”**

“I would say this: It was perhaps a little harsh. But I had two friends in Benghazi and the truth does matter,” Zinke said. [Daily Inter Lake, 2/03/14]

### **Said It was Time that the Government “Stop Telling Lies”**

At a Meet and Greet in January 2014, Zinke said “I think it’s time that we stop telling lies [...] what’s probably worse, is that nobody, nobody trusts government.” Zinke said, “You know, I think it’s time that we stop telling lies, stop breaking promises, and let’s tell the truth. So what is the truth? 47 million Americans are on food stamps. A third of Americans can’t pay their bills on time. 80 million Americans are out of the labor force. We have a \$17 trillion debt. And what’s probably worse, is that nobody, nobody trusts government. If you were to ask that question: ‘Do you trust the United State government?’ I mean, does anyone?” [Meet and Greet at Jorgenson’s Inn, [HYPERLINK "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv6KpJJyhpc&feature=youtu.be"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv6KpJJyhpc&feature=youtu.be) 1/28/14]

### **2014: Bragged About Allen West’s Support of his Campaign**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke bragged about Allen West’s support of Zinke’s campaign. Zinke said, “So why does Burns and Allen West support me? Because they know I’m going to put America first. I don’t yield to pressure. Ever. Only higher principle. I want to restore and rebuild America.” [YouTube, accessed [5/13/14](#)]

### **Allen West’s Guardian Fund Called Zinke “One to Watch”**

As of May 13, 2014, Zinke was listed on Allen West’s Guardian Fund as a “One to Watch,” where West wrote a speech exalting Zinke’s career. Allen West wrote on his website, “Ryan and I both don the Navy/Marine Corps ‘Gold Wings’ parachute insignia. Ryan and I share a commitment and devotion to America, to ensuring it remains exception and its legacy of liberty is preserved for future generations. Former Navy Commander and State Senator Ryan Zinke is indeed someone to watch.” [Allen West Guardian Fund, accessed [5/13/14](#)]

### **Allen West Compared Social Security to Slavery**

In July 2012, West compared social security to slavery. Allen West said, “Since June of 2009 or so, we have seen 2.4 million private sector jobs created, but we’ve had 3.1 million people going on Social Security disability... So once again, we are creating a sense of economic dependence, which to me, is a form of modern 21st century slavery.” [Sun-Sentinel, [7/09/12](#)]

### **Allen West Called Democratic Support of Social Security and Medicare an “Insidious Form of Slavery”**

In February 2012, Allen West called the Democratic support of Social Security and Medicare an “insidious form of slavery.” West said, “For this reason, the Republican value of minimizing government dependence is particularly beneficial to the poorest among us... Conversely, the Democratic appetite for ever-increasing redistributionary handouts is in fact the most insidious form of slavery remaining in the world today, and it does not promote economic freedom.” [The Hill, [2/15/12](#)]

### **Allen West Said Women Have Been “Neutering” American Men**

In April 2011, while speaking to a women’s group, West noted that women had been “neutering American men.” West said, “On the other side, these Planned Parenthood women, these Code Pink women, and all of these women have been neutering American men and bringing us to the point of this incredible weakness [...] We are not going to have our men become subservient.” [New Times Broward-Palm Beach, [4/25/11](#)]

### **Allen West Proclaimed Himself a “Right-Wing Extremist”**

In July 2012, West said he was honored to be with his “fellow right-wing extremists.” West said, “I am just honored to be here today with all of my fellow right-wing extremists.” [West at 4th of July Broward Tea Party rally, 7/04/09]

### **May 2013: Zinke said He Had Been Writing a Book Called “The Rise of the Middle”**

According to the *Portland Tribune*, Zinke has been writing a book called “The Rise of the Middle.” Zinke said, “I take the middle of the political spectrum. Middle America is us. Most folks are not particularly political. They’re paying taxes and working hard. They’re not being well-represented, but we have to get them to become part of the movement. The government has almost become a self-licking ice cream cone. The middle has to be moved as part of our political process.” [Portland Tribune, [5/09/13](#)]

### **...One Month Earlier: Spoke at Arizona Tea Party Patriots Event**

In April 2013, Zinke spoke at the Surprise Tea Party Patriots event in Arizona. [Surprise\_Independent, 4/10/13]  
*Note: As of [5/29/14](#), the video of Zinke at this event was unavailable on the Surprise Tea Party Patriots website*

### **2012: Tea Party Patriots Supported Rand Paul’s Radical Budget Plan**

In 2012, the Tea Party Patriots believed that the Ryan Budget is a step in the right direction, but they supported the approach spearheaded by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) that would balance the budget faster and “doesn’t raise taxes.” [US News and World Report, [3/20/12](#)]

### **2011: Tea Party Patriots Co-Founder Said Opinions of “Non-Taxpayers” Shouldn’t Carry Weight**

In 2011, when presented with poll results showing that 67% of Americans support raising the debt limit, Tea Party Patriots co-founder Mark Meckler said that that number “shouldn’t carry much weight because polls “include some of those 46 percent of Americans who don’t pay federal income taxes.” Continuing his assertion, Meckler said if “you’re not paying taxes, you’re probably not going to oppose higher taxes.” In reality, only 1% of households pay neither federal income nor payroll taxes. [San Francisco Chronicle, [8/11/11](#)]

### **2011: Tea Party Patriots Supported Government Shutdown**

In 2011, according to Tea Party Patriots National Support Team member Shelby Blakely, a government shutdown would be a “welcome change” and would “say to the American people that the people we elected are willing to do what we want them to do.” [Boston Globe, [4/09/11](#)]

### **2014: Called for Obama’s Impeachment**

During a May 2014 debate, Zinke said that President Obama should be impeached over Benghazi and then winked.

ZINKE: So I think, in the fall, we’re gonna win. I think we’ll have the Senate and the House and then I do believe we can put the President on the run. He’s had six years of doing his will to this country and I believe the intentional dismantling of American power, both domestically and abroad. So is impeachment in the cards? Let’s hope we have the votes.

TURIANO: Is that a yes or a no?

ZINKE: Yes. [YouTube, accessed [5/30/14](#)]

### **July 2012: Zinke said that the President “is Jeopardizing the Safety of Our Troops”**

In July 2012, Zinke said that the President “is jeopardizing the safety of our troops.” Zinke said, “The president has failed, and he is jeopardizing the safety of our troops, their families and our national security for political gain. Obama has exposed the identity of special operations units, leaked classified information and limited the rules of engagement of forces on the ground. It’s time to stop President Obama from negotiating away our freedoms and our ability to win on the battlefield.” [Politico, 7/18/12]

### **July 2012: Zinke said that the President’s Actions were “Un-becoming of a Commander-in-Chief”**

In July 2012, Zinke said that the President Obama’s actions were “un-becoming of a commander-in-chief.” Zinke said, “The positioning of Obama as a wartime president was predictable and un-becoming of a commander-in-chief. The active duty military has no voice as they are forbidden to publicly engage in the political campaign process, and it is career suicide for senior military leaders to speak out against the president.” [Politico, 7/18/12]

### **Questioned Whether President Obama was Born in the United States**

On his internet radio program, Trust, Leadership and American Exceptionalism with Commander Z, Zinke questioned whether President Obama was born in the United States. Zinke said, “And the college records, I mean, why not release them. I’m interested. Did he say he was a foreigner and get a scholarship or did he apply and receive a grant? That’s what I hear.” [Radioactive Broadcasting, accessed [5/19/14](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Will Hunt Down Corruption Like I Did the Taliban”**

In March 2012, while campaigning in Bigfork, Zinke said he “will hunt down corruption like I did the Taliban.” Zinke said, “As a SEAL, I can tell you what happens when people lose faith in government. I hunted Taliban, and I will hunt down corruption like I did the Taliban.” [Bigfork Eagle, 3/14/12]

### **2014: Said that the IRS Was “Free to Harass You, Intimidate You” If They Did Not Like You**

In January 2014, speaking at Hometown Helena, Zinke said that “the IRS, they don’t like you, they’re free to harass you, intimidate you.” Zinke said, “The IRS, they don’t like you, they’re free to harass you, intimidate you. Senior IRS officials take the Fifth Amendment, get promoted. The list goes on. Now I think it’s time to stop making promises we can’t keep, and let’s tell the truth.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

### **2014: Accused the IRS of “Continuing to Collude with Liberal Groups”**

In March 2014, Zinke tweeted that it was “shameful to see the IRS continuing to collude with liberal groups.” Zinke tweeted, “It’s shameful to see the IRS continuing to collude with liberal groups to target conservative voices.” [Twitter, [3/10/14](#)]

### **2014: Said “The Problems We Face... Are Not Russia and China”**

In May 2014, on a KMMS radio interview, Zinke said “the problems we face [...] are not Russia and China.” Zinke said, “The problems we face, you know, are not Russia and China, the problems we face with an overreaching government, you know we created, so we can roll it back.” [YouTube, accessed [5/14/14](#)]

### **October 2012: Spoke at CPAC Colorado**

In October 2012, Zinke was a featured speaker at CPAC Colorado. [Targeted News Service, 11/02/12]

### **2011: Received a 90 Percent Rating from the Montana Family Foundation**

In 2011, Zinke received a 90 percent rating from the Montana Family Foundation (MFF) for his conservative positions. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **MFF: Family Should be Founded on a “Marriage of One Man and One Woman”**

According to the Montana Family Foundation Mission Statement, a family should be defined as “a life-long marriage of one man and one woman.” [Montana Family Foundation, accessed [5/19/14](#)]

### **MFF: “Human Life Is Scared from Conception [...] and Must be Protected by Government”**

According to the Montana Family Foundation Mission Statement, “human life is scared from conception to natural death and must be protected by government.” [Montana Family Foundation, accessed [5/19/14](#)]

### **2013: Said “Keep the Government Out of our House, our Business and our Pockets”**

In an October 2013 opinion piece in the *Hungry Horse News*, Zinke said we need to “keep the government out of our house, our business and our pockets.” Zinke said, “Restoring trust in government is only possible when we keep the government out of our house, our business and our pockets. Quite simply, government has become too big and is consuming our basic freedoms to include our right to bear arms, property rights and the right of privacy. The recent revelation that the National Security Agency is monitoring domestic phone calls and emails of U.S. citizens is an example.” [Hungry Horse News, 10/07/13]

### **2013: Said “Government Stops at the Mailbox”**

In June 2013, while discussing his possible candidacy for Senate, Zinke called himself a “blue-collar” Republican and believed “government stops at the mailbox.” [Whitefish Pilot, 6/12/13]

### **November 2012: Said that the “Present Administration Isn’t Showing [...] Leadership**

In November 2012, in a video for “Veterans for a Strong America,” Zinke said “that the present administration isn’t showing the leadership that a commander-in-chief should have.” Zinke said, “And I think what we’re pushing back is that the present administration isn’t showing the leadership that a commander-in-chief should have.” [YouTube, [11/03/12](#)]

### **2012: “America Needs to Take Back Our Country”**

In November 2012, Zinke said that “America needs to take back our country. Zinke said, “America needs to take back our country.” [YouTube, [11/03/12](#)]

### **2014: Said “There is an Abuse of Power”**

In March 2014, while referring to the American government, Zinke said “there is an abuse of power.” Zinke said, “That’s far outside. And many of you know that I ran a Romney organization, and I have it on pretty good authority that if Romney had won, he would have eliminated every executive order, which was unprecedented, and then probably brought back some of the dissent. But there is an abuse of power, there’s an abuse of power with rules. I mean, almost in every industry, is the abuse, that is costing business jobs.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **January 2014: Said “No One in this Room” Trusts the U.S. Government**

In January 2014, Zinke said that “no one in the room” trusts the U.S. Government. Zinke said, “It’s time to stop the lies. Let’s talk about the truth. Who trusts the U.S. government? No one in this room. I’ve served in 25 nations. I’ve seen where people don’t trust their government. We’re there. In the military, the last option is to send in the SEALs.” [Bigfork Eagle, 1/30/14]

### **October 2013: Blamed the President for the Government Shutdown**

In October 2013, during an interview for *Newsmax*, Zinke blamed President Obama for the government shutdown. Zinke said, “First, the government shutdown was about budget, and to me we should have forced the President to say give me a budget for five years, and how are we going to correct this? It’s the president’s job to provide, you know, provide a budget, and the congress approves it. Mr. President, show me a budget how we’re going to get back to fiscal reality and responsibility in five years.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Zinke: “I’ve Already Been Put on the Obama Campaign Enemy List”**

In February 2014, Aaron Flint, a Montana radio host, after speaking with Zinke, wrote that Zinke said he had “been put on the Obama campaign enemy list.” Zinke said, “I’ve already been put on the Obama campaign enemy list and they’re just gonna attack. That’s all these people do is attack, attack, attack.” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/02/14]

### **Zinke Accused Obama Administration of Using “Misinformation, Half Facts”**

In August 2012, Zinke accused the Obama administration of using “misinformation” and “half facts.” Zinke said, “This is what the Obama administration does. They use misinformation, half facts, they try to distract from the issue and to a large degree they try to discredit.” [MailOnline, 8/28/12]

### **March 2012: Said He’s “Fearful for our Country and our State”**

In March 2012, when discussing the business climate, Zinke said “I’m fearful for our country and our state. Zinke said, “I’m fearful for our country and our state.” [Daily Inter Lake, 3/07/12]

### **2014: Said the United States “Has a Moral Compass That’s Changing”**

In March 2014, Zinke said that the United States “has a moral compass that’s changing.” Zinke said, “And lastly, we’ve got to bring truth, and grace, and I do say grace, and honor back to D.C. And regardless of what Hilary says, truth does matter. And when our country has a moral compass that’s changing, of what’s founded in this country of the constitution, Judeo-Christian values, American values, and the determination of what’s right and wrong. That’s the foundation of America. But when it is morphed into what you can get away with in a media campaign, and what the polls say, we’ve lost our moral compass.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **March 2014: Pledged to “Never Lie, Cheat, or Steal”**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke pledged to “never lie, cheat, or steal.” Zinke said, “With your help we can do it, so I pledge this: I’ll never lie, cheat, or steal. I’ll tell you the truth.” [YouTube, accessed [5/13/14](#)]

### **2009: Received a 67% from the Montana Family Foundation**

In 2009, Zinke received a 67 percent rating from the Montana Family Foundation for his conservative positions. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **Obsession with Benghazi**

### **May 2013: Called Benghazi the “Worst Cover Up” in American History**

In a May 2013 letter-to-the-editor to the Waycross Journal-Herald, Zinke wrote “Benghazi is probably the worst cover up in American history.” Zinke wrote, “Benghazi is probably the worst cover up in American history. The Obama administration threw out a smoke and mirrors campaign to blind the public right before an election. They knew that if Americans discovered the truth, he would not be re-elected. Some have called this Obama’s Watergate, but nobody died in Watergate. We have four dead Americans and the truth still eludes us!” [Waycross Journal-Herald, 5/18/13]

### **October 2013: The Cover-Up “Was a Lie”**

In October 2013, during a Newsmax TV interview, Zinke criticized the “ineptness of letting” Benghazi occur and that the cover-up “was a lie.” Zinke said, “Well, truth does matter, and the case of Benghazi had three things: It had one, ineptness of letting it happen, two, inaction while the action occurred, you know not giving cross-border authority, seven and a half hours, two former SEALs were duking it out, and we didn’t provide any assistance, and then finally the cover-up at the end of it, which was a lie.” [YouTube, uploaded [2/07/14](#)]

### **2013: Said that a “Cover Up Story was Willfully Devised to Deceive the Public”**

In October 2013, Zinke wrote in an opinion piece for the *Hungry Horse News* that a “cover up story was willfully devised to deceive the public” about Benghazi. Zinke wrote, “The fact that negligence in security allowed Benghazi to occur, Cross Border Authority and military assistance was denied, and a cover up story was willfully devised to deceive the public should evoke outrage by every American. Yet not a single official was fired despite the brutal rape and torture of our ambassador and the death of three American heroes.” [Hungry Horse News, 10/07/13]

### **January 2014: Said the Benghazi Had “A Cover Up and the Cover Up was a Lie”**

In January 2014, on the SOFREP Internet Radio Program, Zinke said that “Benghazi is probably the leading example of what’s wrong” and that “you have a cover-up. And the cover-up was a lie.” Zinke said, “And, Benghazi is probably the leading example of what’s wrong. You have incompetence up front that failed to recognize a threat. You have complete incompetence and lack of any resolve during the crisis, you know, to interdict in any meaningful way, and you have a cover-up. And the cover-up was a lie. Let’s just call it what it is. And, to me, it’s far more, it’s far worse than Watergate. As bad as Watergate was, as bad as the lies, the deceit, I think Benghazi is far worse, because you have a promulgated lie, that didn’t, that didn’t fit in the easy

script, and then people died. You know, and, your friends and my friends, you know, died, and that's, I think Benghazi, you know, is a flag, and it's, it's worthy of not forgetting." [YouTube, [1/27/14](#)]

#### **2014: Zinke's Facebook "Shameful That This Administration Continues to Play Politics"**

In May 2014, Ryan Zinke for Congress' Facebook wrote that "it's shameful that this Administration continues to play politics." Ryan Zinke for Congress wrote on Facebook, "It's shameful that this Administration continues to play politics instead of answering for what happened in Benghazi and why four Americans lost their lives." [Facebook, accessed [5/13/14](#)]

#### **Zinke: "John [Lewis] Plays The Guitar. I Waterboard."**

"State bloggers took aim at Ehrlick again last fall when he quoted then-U.S. House candidate Ryan Zinke stating, 'John [Lewis] plays the guitar. I waterboard.' Ehrlick's quotation appeared in a Sunday column two days before the election, but Zinke had actually uttered the phrase in Ehrlick's presence while backstage at a debate two months prior. 'One might have expected the Gazette to follow up with a story about Zinke's actual views on waterboarding,' David Crisp wrote on lastbestnews.com. 'At the very least, the comment would appear to cast doubt on the political savvy of a candidate who based his entire campaign around his record of honorable military service.'" [Missoula Independent, [6/04/15](#)]

**2015: Zinke Delivered The Republican Response to the President's Weekly Address.** [YouTube, House Republicans, [6/20/15](#)] (VIDEO)

#### **Zinke Claimed Harry Reid Said the 2016 NDAA Was a "Waste Of Time" Because the President Threatened to Veto It**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President's weekly address: "Good morning. My name is Ryan Zinke. I'm proud to hail from the great state of Montana, and humbled to be the first Navy SEAL to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. I was a SEAL for 23 years, but these days, I'm a military dad. Our daughter is a Navy diver, our son-in-law is an active duty SEAL. I take our constitutional duty to provide for the common defense seriously and personally. So you can imagine how I felt when Senator Harry Reid said recently that supporting a bill to help our troops was a 'waste of time.' He was talking about a plan that provides the resources for critical medical supplies, food, body armor, and ammunition. This plan also gives our troops a pay raise. A raise that I think we can all agree they've earned. But because President Obama threatened to veto the bill, Senator Harry Reid thought it was all a 'waste of time.'" [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Said Democrats Were Holding the 2016 NDAA "Hostage" Because They Wanted More Money For The IRS And The EPA**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President's weekly address: "You're probably wondering, 'why would the president threaten to veto a bill supporting our troops?' Well, it actually has nothing to do with national security. You see, the president and his party want more money for big government agencies like the IRS and the EPA. And in order to get it, they plan to hold our troops hostage. I'm afraid there's more. Not only are Democrats set in blocking a pay raise for our troops, but if they don't get more money for the IRS and EPA, they intend to shut down the entire federal government." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Said Democrats Would Vote "Against Our Troops" To "Win More Money For Their Washington Bureaucracies."**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President's weekly address: "Members of the President's party have lost sight of this. They will actually vote against our troops and try to win more money for their Washington bureaucracies. How can they explain that at a 4th of July parade or military ceremony? That's what I'd like to know. Mr. President, I appeal to you as Commander-in-Chief to stop this game your party is playing with our national security. It's dangerous and it's wrong. Do the right thing. Help give our

troops the resources they need and the pay they deserve. God bless America, and God bless the men and women who defend her.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “No Price Can Be Attached To The Sacrifices Of The Men And Women In Uniform Are Willing To Make.”**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President’s weekly address: “Taking care of our troops should be our top priority, but it isn’t on the Democrats’ to-do list right now. They’ve lost sight of American values in favor of Washington politics. To think President Obama still has no strategy to defeat and destroy ISIS, yet his party has a strategy to get more money for the IRS. I’ve been to war. I know the consequences and sacrifice it takes. If we must fight, we fight to win. We need to make sure our troops have the right equipment, the right training, and the rules of engagement to win decisively on the field of battle. And when we send our troops to war, we need a plan to make sure we bring them home safely. Making sure our men and women are safe on the battlefield and are well taken care of when they get home, that’s the least we can do. No price can be attached to the sacrifices of the men and women in uniform are willing to make.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Gov. Candidate Neil Livingstone Announced as Running Mate**

In July 2011, Neil Livingstone, a Republican gubernatorial candidate and national security consultant, announced Zinke as his running mate. In his kickoff, Livingstone pledged to “abolish the state corporate income tax.” Livingstone said, “We’re going to work to abolish the state corporate income tax and the [business] equipment tax. [...] We want to provide tax breaks for companies that come to Montana and make this an inviting regulatory environment for them.” [Hotline, 7/11/11]

### **Planned to Take “Aim At Regulation”**

According to a March 12, 2012, screenshot of their website, Zinke and Livingstone planned to take “aim at regulation.”



[Internet Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Offered to Rescue Libyan Dictator for \$10M**

In November 2011, the *New York Times* reported that Livingstone was part of a group that offered a \$10 million consulting fee to begin negotiations with Qaddafi’s representatives. The group said they promised to assist in freeing billions of dollars of Libyan assets by having the government comply with UN resolutions. [New York Times, [11/17/11](#)]

### **Livingstone Said the Goal Was “to Get the Qaddafis Out of There as Fast as Possible”**

Livingstone claimed the group’s goal was to “get the Qaddafis out of there as fast as possible.” Livingstone said, “The idea was to find them an Arabic-speaking sanctuary and let them keep some money, in return for getting out [...] Our whole goal was to get the Qaddafis out of there as fast as possible.” [New York Times, [11/17/11](#)]

### **Pledged No Paycheck until 1,000 New Jobs Created**

In May 2012, Zinke and Livingstone each pledged not to take a state paycheck until they had created 1,000 new private sector jobs. Zinke said, “There’s a difference between saying it and doing it. There’s a difference between having done it and having been a recycled politician and not doing it when you had a chance.” [Billings Gazette, 5/09/12]

### **Livingstone Said He “Met with Terrorists in Their Jail Cells in Turkey”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “met with terrorists in their jail cells in Turkey and over drinks high above Moscow in the Ukraina Hotel and at the Ritz in Paris.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He Was Subpoenaed “Incorrectly” for Involvement in Iran-Contra**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “been subpoenaed, incorrectly, for gun running in Central America and, again incorrectly, for involvement in the Iran-Contra affair.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Advocated for the U.S. Killing Foreign Leaders**

In August 1986, Livingstone said we “should have killed the ayatollah” and that the “right in my judgment” would be to “overthrow” the government in Nicaragua. Livingstone said, “We should have killed the ayatollah. Assassination is a dirty word but I do believe there are terrorists and people like the ayatollah who can so disrupt the world order we have today [...] Somoza was a bad guy, but these guys are worse. The right thing in my judgment is to overthrow that government. Whether the contras or the United States should go in and throw them out, I’m not prepared to say.” [Washington Post, 8/20/86]

### **Livingstone Claimed He Served as a Liaison for the U.S.**

In March 2012, Livingstone said that he “served as a liaison for my government.” Livingstone said, “Without going into detail that I can’t, I have served as a liaison for my government and others in terms of dealing with most of the difficult people on Earth. There is a necessity to work with some of the bad guys in the world. You are not going to find these people in church or wherever.” [AP, 3/11/12]

### **Livingstone Said He “Attended Business Meetings in Corporate Board Rooms” in Wall Street**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “attended business meetings in corporate board rooms high over Wall Street, in dark alleys, aboard private jets, in seedy bars, palaces, bank vaults, on factory floors, and in Hillsborough Castle, the Queen’s residence in Northern Ireland.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Claimed He “Dined at Gangster Clubs in Moscow”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he “dined at gangster clubs in Moscow and in the back rooms of Georgian and Uzbek restaurants with members of the Russian Mafia.” [Mother Jones, [3/27/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Claimed He “Been Paid in Stacks of \$100 Bills By Clients”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “been paid in stacks of \$100 bills by clients.” [Mother Jones, [3/27/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Claimed He “Been Arrested, Jailed, and Interrogated in Libya”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “been arrested, jailed, and interrogated in Libya.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Claimed He “Bent an Elbow with Old Lefties and Sinn Fein”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “bent an elbow with old lefties and Sinn Fein in the ‘Kremlin Bar’ in the bowels of the House of Commons.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He Had “Been Trapped in Montenegro ... with Milosevic” on our Heels**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “been trapped in Montenegro with a former Navy SEAL with Milosevic hot on our heels.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He “Been on the Run in Colombia with Cases of Electronic Equipment”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “been on the run in Colombia with cases of electronic equipment and a 46-foot long antennae.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He Had “Been Stalked by Terrorist and Nazis in Argentina”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “been stalked by terrorists and Nazis in Argentina.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He Had “Explored the North Korean Tunnels Beneath the DMZ”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “explored the North Korean tunnels beneath the DMZ.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

### **Livingstone Said He Had “a Drink with Petit Pierre”**

In 2012, Neil Livingstone claimed he had “stayed in Haiti’s legendary Hotel Oloffson and had a drink with Petit Pierre while voodoo drums echoed in the hills above.” [Web Archive, accessed [5/09/14](#)]

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS FOR AMERICA PAC

- ✓ SOFA is a Super PAC started by Zinke in June of 2012. Zinke left the PAC, transferring it to the consultant he made chief of staff after his 2014 victory. To date, the vast majority of the PAC's expenditure were to aide Zinke, and to enrich himself, his family, and his team of consultants.
- ✓ SOFA has had repeated trouble with the FEC, being hit with three FEC complaints and nine Requests for Additional Information because reports submitted were incomplete. The organization also admitted to a 48-hour disclosure rule violation.
- ✓ He has made a mockery of campaign finance rules, which require Super PACs to operate independently from campaigns without "coordination." However, he left the Super PAC less than a month before announcing his own campaign. He left the Super PAC to the consultant he would later make his chief of staff. The campaign spent the majority of its Independent Expenditures supporting Zinke. The PAC and the campaign also paid the same consultant for research.
- ✓ Zinke used the PAC to enrich himself and his friends and family. From 2012 to 2015, SOFA spent just 9.8% of funds raised on Independent Expenditures, and given \$0 to other committees. Instead, the PAC has paid Zinke's consulting company, his daughter, his consultants and his later to be chief of staff.

### **Zinke Super PAC Was Hit with "Several" FEC Complaints for "Illegal Coordination"**

According to the *Daily Inter Lake*, "Zinke remained active in politics in 2012 when he helped form and chaired a super PAC known as Special Operations for America, which ran an independent expenditure campaign against President Barack Obama's re-election. Zinke resigned as the group chairman before starting his U.S. House campaign, but several complaints to the Federal Election Commission have alleged there was illegal coordination between SOFA and Zinke's campaign. The group has made independent expenditures in the House race. He has denied the charges, and the Federal Election Commission has not ruled yet on the complaints." [Daily Inter Lake, 10/18/14]

### **Former Rep. Hill: "There Are Obvious Ethic Questions"**

In May 2014, former Congressman Hill said, "there are obvious ethic questions surrounding [Zinke's] association with SOFA." Hill said, "There are the obvious ethic questions surrounding his association with SOFA (Special Operations For America) and its improper promotion of his candidacy." [Great Falls Tribune, 5/22/14]

### **SOFA PAC Spent Over \$3M in the 2014 Cycle, Most of It Going to Base Connect, Zinke, & His Former Chief of Staff**

"This is nothing new for future Speaker Zinke. His previous Super PAC – the one behind that unhinged ad in 2012 – never actually spent money airing that ad. In fact, it spent just \$7,000 on independent expenditures that year. The Super PAC went on to raise and spend more than \$3 million in the 2014 cycle – the vast majority going to various Base Connect companies, a company run by Zinke's former chief of staff, and a company run by Zinke himself. To the extent it helped any cause at all, the *Missoula Independent* reported, the Super PAC helped promote Zinke's 2014 bid to be *Wonkette's* new congressman. Oh, and Zinke's actual congressional campaign account was more of the same. And don't fret, Zinke's new PAC is paying consulting fees to the former chief of staff as well." [Wonkette Media Empire, Wonkette Blog, [10/19/15](#)]

### Sept. 2013: Resigned as Chairman of SOFA PAC

On September 30, 2013, Zinke announced over Facebook that he was stepping down as “volunteer Chairman” of his super PAC, Special Operations for America. Zinke wrote, “For over a year, I have been honored to serve as your volunteer Chairman and help champion the important mission of defending our Constitutional freedoms and the values that have made America the greatest nation on earth. Effective immediately, I am stepping down, as Chairman and new leadership will take the helm to steer the future of for Special Operations for America. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.” [Facebook, [9/30/13](#)]

### ...THEN October 11, 2013: SOFA Started a “Draft Zinke” Effort on Facebook

On October 11, 2013, Special Operations for America released a photo which stated “Draft Zinke for U.S. Congress. American leadership. Like and share to draft Ryan Zinke for America.” [Facebook, [10/11/13](#)]

### SOFA Has Spent Less than 10% to Help Candidates

Since it’s founding in 2012 through the last filing at the time of this report (year end 2015), SOFA has raised over \$4.7 million and spent about \$465,000 on Independent Expenditures – reported efforts to impact a specific campaign. That is 9.8 percent of the PACs contributions are spent on impactful election activity.

CYCLE	RAISED	IE	COMMITTEES
2016	\$1,196,578.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2014	\$3,350,113.00	\$458,028.00	\$0.00
2012	\$182,378.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,729,069.00</b>	<b>\$465,028.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, 3/15/16]

### SOFA Timeline

#### July 2012: Zinke Opens SOFA PAC

Zinke begins Super PAC-Special Operations for America (SOFA PAC). He promotes SOFA PAC on Fox News and claims he wasn’t taking a paycheck for it but was doing it for “God and country.” [Hannity, [7/26/12](#)]

#### July 2012 - March 2013: SOFA PAC Paid \$26,000 to Zinke’s Business

From July 2012 to March 2013, SOFA PAC paid \$26,317 in consulting fees to Continental Divide International, which Zinke served as CEO. The purpose of Continental Divide International is unclear. In addition to consulting fees, SOFA reimbursed Continental Divide more than \$3,000 for unspecified expenses and paid for Zinke to travel to the Republican National Committee in Tampa and the Conservative Political Action Conference in Denver. [Mother Jones, [11/01/13](#)]

*NOTE: The article compared it to this [Jon Stewart/Stephen Colbert Super PAC segment](#) from 2012.*

#### September 2013: Zinke Resigned from SOFA

On September 30, 2013, Zinke resigned from SOFA PAC. [Soforamerica.org, [9/30/13](#)]

#### October 2013: Zinke Announced Candidacy & PAC Promotes Him

On October 21, 2013, Zinke announces candidacy for U.S. House. SOFA PAC promotes Zinke’s campaign and establishes itself as the principal campaign committee of Zinke’s campaign. [Billings Gazette, [10/21/13](#); Campaign Legal Center Complaint, [3/05/14](#); Facebook, [10/12/13](#), [10/16/13](#)]

#### Nov. 2013: Zinke & SOFA Used Same Researcher, Raising Coordination Qs

Zinke and SOFA PAC use the same researcher potentially coordinating research and SOFA PAC continues to rent a home owned by Zinke, located directly across the street from Zinke’s primary residence. [Huffington Post, [5/07/14](#)]

### **March 2014: Campaign Legal Center Filed an FEC Complaint Against Them**

On March 5, 2014, the Campaign Legal Center filed a formal complaint with the Federal Election Commission against Zinke and SOFA PAC. [Campaign Legal Center Complaint, [3/05/14](#)]

### **May 2014: SOFA Spent Just Over \$17,000 on Media Against Zinke's Opponent**

In May 2014, SOFA PAC reported making \$17,260 in media buys against Zinke's chief Republican opponent in the primary, Matt Rosendale. [Independent Record, [5/21/14](#)]

### **June 2014: FEC Complaint Filed by Zinke & SOFA**

On June 30, 2014, Zinke and Special Operations for America were the subject a formal complaint against them with the Federal Election Commission. [MDP Complaint, [6/30/14](#)]

*NOTE: The complaint was filed by the Montana Democratic Party.*

### **November 2014: Spent \$175,278 for Zinke's Campaign**

As of January 6, 2015, SOFA PAC has spent \$175,278 to help Zinke's campaign. [Open Secrets, accessed [1/06/14](#)]

### **January 2015: Zinke's Hires Former Treasurer of SOFA PAC as Chief of Staff**

Zinke hires SOFA PAC treasurer, Scott Hommel, as his chief of staff. [Helenair, [1/6/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Hired Former SOFA PAC Treasurer Scott Hommel, as Chief of Staff**

Zinke hired Scott Hommel as his chief of staff. Scott Hommel was the treasurer of SOFA PAC. [FEC, [7/13/14](#); Helenair, [1/6/15](#)]

#### **Hommel Previously Served as the Chief of Staff for SOFA**

In 2012, Scott Hommel served as the chief of staff for Special Operations for America. [Facebook, [8/08/12](#)]

#### **Hommel Served as Spokesman for SOFA**

In 2012, Scott Hommel served as the spokesman for Special Operations for America. [Huffington Post, [7/19/12](#)]

### **Company Owned by Chief of Staff Received Money from SOFA PAC**

"Zinke isn't the only SOFA staffer to benefit professionally from this apparent financial shell game. SOFA paid out \$86,499.85 over the past year to Battle Plan Strategies, a New York company owned by SOFA treasurer Scott Hommel. Those expenditures were made for 'administrative consulting,' 'administration' and 'strategy consulting.'" [Missoula Independent, [11/13/13](#)]

## **Origins of Special Operations for America**

### **July 16, 2012: Filed Paperwork with FEC to Launch Special Operations for America**

On July 16, 2012, Zinke filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission for his super PAC, Special Operations for America. [Gannett News Service, 7/18/12]

### **Claimed Obama Politicized his Role to Win Re-Election**

Discussing his new organization, Obama said that President Obama had politicized his role as commander-in-chief to win reelection. Zinke said, "Who was it at risk? Was it the president? Or was it the young SEAL with the wife and kid at home? That's the arrogance." [Gannett News Service, 7/18/12]

### **August 2012: Accused Obama of Granting Access to Classified Documents for Political Gain**

In August 2012, Zinke accused the President of "provided unprecedented access to classified CIA documents" for political gain. Zinke wrote, "The evidence is compelling that it was the Commander-in-Chief and his administration that first confirmed SEAL Team SIX conducted the raid that killed Osama Bin Laden and then

provided unprecedented access to classified CIA documents that detailed collection methods and operations [...] This week a former member of SEAL Team SIX who participated on the raid itself releases a book about his experience. Clearly, disclosing sensitive information to our enemies for political or monetary gain is worthy of prosecution. The problem the President faces is how can you hold a hero who was on the mission accountable for writing a book and not apply the same standard to himself as Commander-in-Chief for making a movie about the same event?” [Special Operations for America, [8/26/12](#)]

### **July 2012 Zinke: Resources Would Be Devoted to Swing States**

In July 2012, Zinke said that Special Operations for America’s resources would be devoted to swing states that have a large military population. Zinke said, “States that have a large military population. Those happen to be swing states: the Carolinas, Florida, Virginia, Nevada.” [Missoula Independent, 7/26/12]

### **...YET Only \$7,000 for Independent Expenditures**

\$7,000 of the disbursements went to independent expenditures. [Federal Elections Commission, accessed 5/01/14]

### **Spent \$7,000 on Radio Ads in Nashville**

On October 9, 2012, Special Operations for America paid WSM Radio, located in Nashville, \$7,000 for radio ads opposing President Obama. [Federal Elections Commission, [10/09/12](#)]

### **August 2012: Met with Karl Rove**

In August 2012, Zinke met with Karl Rove.



[Twitter, [8/08/12](#)]

### **2012: Said It Was “Appalling” that Obama Would Make a Commercial About bin Laden’s Killing**

In August 2012, Zinke said that he found it “appalling” that President Obama “would make a political commercial” on bin Laden’s killing. Zinke said, “No one ever disputed that he made the decision. I respect that fact. What I find appalling is that he would make a political commercial with former President Clinton talking about it. That’s where the line was and I think that action is what upset many.” [MailOnline, 8/28/12]

### **Zinke: “Seen Tears Cried Watching Our President Bow”**

In August 2012, Zinke said that he has “seen tears cried watching our president bow.” Zinke said, “I’ve seen tears cried watching our president bow. It has nothing to do with protocol. It has to do with the symbol of America bowing.” [MailOnline, 8/28/12]

### **Zinke: “President Obama has Bowed to the World, Both Literally and Figuratively”**

In an October 13, 2012 letter to the editor, Zinke asked for donations to help air his Super PAC’s “Bow to Nobody” ad, saying that “President Obama has bowed to the world, both literally and figuratively.” Zinke wrote, “Now is the time to restore American pride. President Obama has bowed to the world, both literally and

figuratively. It is a travesty. Too many of our men and women have sacrificed for our freedom to be bowing to the world.” [Waycross Journal-Herald, 10/13/12]

### **2012: Board Member Entertained Overthrowing U.S. Government**

According to a July 2012 tweet, Major General Paul Vallely was a Board Member of Special Operations for America. [Twitter, accessed [5/28/14](#)]

### **December 2013: Vallely said He Would Head a Revolution against Obama “If We Had To”**

In December 2013, Vallely said he would head a revolution against President Obama “if we had to.” Vallely said, “I had a call this afternoon from Idaho, the gentlemen said, ‘If I give you 250,000 marines to go to Washington, will you lead ‘em?’ I said, yes I will, I’ll surround the White House, and I’ll surround the Capitol building [...] So, I don’t know how else to do it, and I don’t want to be criticized of starting a revolution, but I’d certainly head it if we had to. We all love a good fight if it’s worth it, right?” [Right Wing Watch, [1/27/14](#)]

### **December 2013: The Tea Party Did “Great Things”**

In December 2013, Vallely said that the Tea Party did “great things.” Vallely said, “The great things that Tea Party did, I mean, they were out there in community standing up being seen. They did things. So, we’ve gotta go based on what the Tea Party has done and elevate something, and get more younger people involved.” [Right Wing Watch, [1/27/14](#)]

### **2012: Retired Colonel Compared SOFA to Swift Boat Veterans**

In August 2012, retired Colonel Dick Klass, the vice-president of VetPAC, compared Special Operations for America to Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. Klass said, “It’s Swift Boat Veterans all over again. It’s some guys being used, they are trolling for money among the Boone Pickens and Koch Brothers.” [Buzzfeed, [8/03/12](#)]

### **July 2012 SOFA: Veterans Were “Outraged” that Obama “Conveniently Took Credit”**

In July 2012, in the press release announcing Special Operations for America, the organization said that “veterans across America have been outraged since Barack Obama conveniently took credit for killing Osama Bin Laden for political gain.” The press release announcing SOFA said, “Navy SEALs, Special Operations personnel and veterans across America have been outraged since Barack Obama conveniently took credit for killing Osama Bin Laden for political gain. The active duty military has no voice as they are forbidden to publicly engage in the political campaign process and it is career suicide for senior military leaders to speak out against the president.” [Daily Inter Lake, 7/19/12]

### **Zinke Benefitted from *Citizens United*, Used Former Super PAC to Launch Campaign**

#### **Zinke “Taking Super-PACs to a New Extreme.”**

From *Mother Jones*: “The point of Colbert and Stewart’s comedy bit was to demonstrate that the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* decision had rendered campaign finance law remarkably flimsy—so weak that it was legal for a person to start a super-PAC, raise unlimited heaps of cash from big-money donors that super-PAC, quit the super-PAC, and then run for federal office supported by that super-PAC...Now Ryan Zinke—a 52 year old ex-Navy SEAL and former state senator who is running to be Montana’s only congressional seat is putting Colbert’s theory to the test.” [Mother Jones, [11/01/13](#)]

### **“GOP Candidate Benefiting from Super PAC He Founded Takes Heat from Fellow Republicans.”**

“But the decision by the group, Special Operations for America, to support Zinke is not exactly surprising. Zinke founded it himself two years ago, and he’s now reaping the benefits of its support as he runs for Congress. It’s not completely clear how legal this set-up is in this post-*Citizens United* world. But it smells fishy enough that it’s raising objections -- not only from campaign finance reform experts, but also from Zinke’s fellow Republicans, who don’t usually complain about the influence of super PACs.” [Huffington Post, [5/07/14](#)]

### **“Zinke Reaps Benefits of Super PAC He Founded.”**

“A U.S. House candidate in Montana is benefiting from a political action committee he created, leading at least one opponent and some experts to question the legality of the peculiar arrangement. Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL who is seeking the Republican nomination for Montana’s lone congressional seat, created the Special Operations for America (SOFA) super PAC to back Mitt Romney’s 2012 presidential campaign. The committee now backs candidates who support the military — and their first candidate is Zinke, a 52-year-old former state senator. Since October, when Zinke announced his candidacy, SOFA PAC has spent more than \$70,000 on television, radio and Internet advertising in support of his campaign.” [AP, [2/14/14](#)]

### **“Group Files Complaint Over Super PAC Linked to Zinke.”**

“A campaign watchdog group has asked the Federal Election Commission to investigate a political action committee associated with Ryan Zinke, who is running for Montana’s seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Zinke, a Republican, formed the Super PAC called “Special Operations for Montana” to oppose Barack Obama’s presidential campaign. Now, the group is supporting Zinke with a couple of campaign ads.” [KRTV, [3/06/14](#)]

### **Zinke Used Special Operations for America for Personal Gain**

#### **November 2013: “Volunteer Chairman of Special Operations for America”**

In a November 2013 letter to the *Hungry Horse News*, Zinke called himself the “former volunteer chairman of Special Operations for America.” Zinke wrote, “As a combat veteran and former volunteer chairman of Special Operations for America [...] I traveled extensively, paying out of my own pocket at all times, to promote our message to receptive audiences around the country. To suggest I profited off of my voluntary role as chairman is knowingly disingenuous.” [Hungry Horse News, 11/08/13]

#### **Zinke: “I am Not Taking a Paycheck”**

On the Fox Hannity Show, Zinke said “I am not taking a paycheck.” Zinke said, “The unfortunate part of politics, our voice is in a relationship to how much money we have. I am not taking a paycheck. I am doing this for God and country, but we are going to be very, careful in our deliver of message. We want to make sure what we say is well documented and we don’t hit below the belt. I don’t dislike the president personally. I dislike his policies as commander chief and as president.” [Fox Hannity, 7/26/12]

#### **...YET in 2012 SOFA Paid Zinke’s Company \$28,253 for Consulting & Expenses**

In the 2012 election cycle, from July 30, to December 10, Special Operations for America paid Zinke’s company, Continental Divide International, \$28,253. The disbursements were for fundraising consulting, Zinke’s trip to the Republican National Convention in Tampa, a CPAC conference in Denver, as well as his trips to Las Vegas, Dallas, and San Antonio. [Federal Elections Commission, accessed 5/01/14]

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
12/10/12	Continental Divide International	--	\$5,000
11/26/12	Continental Divide International	Expense Reimbursement	\$3,036
10/15/12	Continental Divide International	Ryan Zinke - San Antonio, Cpac Denver	\$2,625
10/09/12	Continental Divide International	Ryan Zinke - Rnc Tampa/Las Vegas And Dallas	\$2,777
9/04/12	Continental Divide International	Fundraising Consulting	\$4,324
8/27/12	Continental Divide International	Fundraising Consulting	\$2,452
8/06/12	Continental Divide International	Fundraising Consulting	\$2,546
7/30/12	Continental Divide International	Fundraising Consulting	\$5,493

**...AND 2013-2014: SOFA Paid Zinke's Consulting Firm \$11,609**

In 2013, SOFA paid Zinke and his wife's consulting firm, Continental Divide International, LLC \$6,500 for "strategy consulting" and \$5,109 for travel reimbursement.

DATE	PAYEE	PURPOSE	STATE	AMOUNT
1/24/13	Continental Divide Int LLC	Strategy Consulting	MT	\$5,000
3/21/13	Continental Divide Int LLC	Strategy Consulting	MT	\$1,500
8/05/13	Continental Divide Int LLC	Travel Reimbursement	MT	\$5,109
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$11,609</b>

[Federal Election Commission, 3/15/16]

**...AND in 2013-2014: SOFA Also Paid \$5,058 for Continental Divide Reimbursements**

DATE	PAYEE	PURPOSE	ST	DATE	AMOUNT
ALASKA AIRLINES	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: TRAVEL: AIRFARE	SEATTLE	W A	8/5/13	\$829.00
AVIS	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: TRAVEL: CAR RENTAL	PARSIPPANY	NJ	8/5/13	\$506.00
AVIS	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: TRAVEL: CAR RENTAL	PARSIPPANY	NJ	8/5/13	\$225.00
BLEVANS, MASON	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: PARKING SERVICES	WHITEFISH	MT	8/5/13	\$100.00
BREANNA AND BRITTANY BARNES	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: EVENT ENTERTAINMENT	WHITEFISH	MT	8/5/13	\$200.00
COSTCO	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: EVENT STAGING EXPENSE	ISSAQUAH	W A	8/5/13	\$75.00
COSTCO	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: EVENT STAGING EXPENSE	ISSAQUAH	W A	8/5/13	\$425.00
COSTCO	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: EVENT STAGING EXPENSE	ISSAQUAH	W A	8/5/14	\$375.00
DELTA	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: TRAVEL: AIRFARE	ATLANTA	GA	8/5/13	\$2,043.00
PEARSON, ROSE	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: CLEANING SERVICES	WHITEFISH	MT	8/5/13	\$100.00
SLAYBAUGH, JAKE	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: PARKING SERVICES	WHITEFISH	MT	8/5/13	\$80.00

TRACY, KYLE	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE REIMBURSEMENT: PARKING SERVICES	WHITEFISH	MT	8/5/13	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$5,058.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, 3/15/16]

#### 2014: \$175,278 of Itemized Independent Expenditures for Zinke, the Most of Any Candidate

During the 2014 election cycle, SOFA spent \$175,278 on itemized independent expenditures for Ryan Zinke.

CANDIDATE	PTY	ST	OFFICE	TOTAL	FOR	AGAINST	RESULTS
Zinke, Ryan K	R	MT	House	\$175,278	\$175,278	\$0	Winner
Osborn, Shane	R	NE	Senate	\$163,260	\$163,260	\$0	Lost in primary
Cotton, Tom	R	AR	Senate	\$74,226	\$74,226	\$0	Winner
Rosendale, Matt	R	MT	House	\$17,260	\$0	\$17,260	Lost in primary
Zeldin, Lee	R	NY	House	\$9,184	\$9,184	\$0	Winner
Ernst, Joni	R	IA	Senate	\$8,492	\$8,492	\$0	Winner
McSally, Martha	R	AZ	House	\$6,925	\$6,906	\$19	Winner
Wilske, Larry	R	CA	House	\$3,366	\$3,366	\$0	Lost
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$457,991</b>			

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

*NOTE: At the time of this report, no expenditures had been made for the 2015-2016 election cycle.*

#### 2013: All of SOFA's Itemized Independent Expenditures Supported Zinke's Campaign

In 2013, all \$10,463.27 of Special Operations for America's itemized independent expenditures supported Zinke's campaign for Montana's At Large Seat.

DATE	PAYEE	CANDIDATE	AMOUNT
12/19/13	Boston Productions	Zinke	\$2,600
10/22/13	Facebook	Zinke	\$753.01
11/01/13	Facebook	Zinke	\$624.08
12/02/13	Facebook	Zinke	\$586.60
10/21/13	Google	Zinke	\$127.58
12/16/13	Google	Zinke	\$350
11/20/13	Multimedia Services	Zinke	\$5,422
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$10,463.27</b>

[Federal Election Commission, [1/31/14](#)]

#### 2012: Paid Zinke's Daughter \$2,500 for "Digital Consulting" and "Social Media"

In 2012, SOFA paid Zinke's daughter, Jennifer Detlefsen, \$2,500 for "digital consulting" and "social media."

DATE	PAYEE	PURPOSE	STATE	AMOUNT
8/20/12	Detlefsen, J	Digital Consulting	VA	\$500
9/10/12	Detlefsen, J	Digital Consulting	VA	\$500
10/15/12	Detlefsen, J	Social Media	VA	\$500
11/02/12	Detlefsen, J	Social Media	VA	\$500
11/21/12	Detlefsen, J	Social Media	VA	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$2,500</b>

[Federal Elections Commission, accessed 5/01/14]

### **2013-2014: Paid Executive Director's Firm \$237,043**

In 2014 election cycle, Scott Hommel's firm, Battle Plan Strategies, was paid \$237,043 by Special Operations for America for "strategy consulting." [Federal Election Commission, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

### **2009-2010: Hommel Was a Lobbyist in New York State**

In 2009-2010, Scott Hommel was a lobbyist for Peduzzi Associates, LTD, out of their New York Office. According to New York State Lobbyist Registration, Hommel lobbied for Fist Line Technology. [New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, accessed [5/01/14](#)]

### **New Chairman of SOFA Worked for Zinke's Running Mate, Neil Livingstone**

According to a 2000 testimony to the House Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, Gary Stubblefield, the next chairman for Special Operations for America, was the President of GlobalOptions LLC at the time Neil Livingstone was the Chairman. [Federal News Service, 1/26/00]

## **SOFA PAC's Other Expenditures**

### **2012 Election Cycle: Only Spent 3.8% of Contributions on IEs**

In the 2012 election cycle, SOFA raised \$182,378 but only spent \$7,000 on independent expenditures and \$0 on contributions to committees, resulting in 3.8 percent of contributions being used for independent expenditures. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [5/22/14](#)]

### **March 2014: Spent 86% of Contributions, 13.6% on IEs**

In the 2014 election cycle, SOFA raised \$3,366,613 but only spent \$458,028 on independent expenditures and \$0 on contributions to committees, resulting in 13.6 percent of contributions being used for independent expenditures. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

### **March 2016: Spent 85% of Money Raised, \$0 on IEs**

In 2015, Special Operations for America raised \$1,196,578, and spent \$1,018,568. The Super PAC's 2015 ending cash on hand was just \$186,672. \$0 of that was spent on Independent Expenditures on specific campaigns and \$0 on contributions to committees. Meaning SOFA spent over 85 percent of their haul and did not help a single candidate. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

### **July 2012 Zinke: Picked Super PAC for SOFA Since "You Can Trace Every Penny"**

In July 2012, Zinke said that they decided to use a Super PAC since "you can trace every penny." Zinke said, "The reason we picked a Super PAC over other funding vehicles is that with a Super PAC, you can trace every penny." [Missoula Independent, 7/26/12]

### **Zinke: "Every Dollar that Comes in Is Accountable"**

Zinke said, "We're a super PAC and we designed ourselves to be fully transparent. Every dollar that comes in is accountable. -The other thing that separates us, to a degree, is that we make comments on issues that are documented, that are supportable and we're very, very careful on the message to make sure that we're above the waterline. We're not a 'Swift Boat' organization. We don't make it personal. We make sure that what we represent is factual to the best of our ability and we're shaping what I think is a compelling argument about this administration." [Newsmax, 8/27/12]

### **2015: Spent \$658,562 on Direct Mail Firms, \$273,630 on Mail Program Support Services**

In 2015, SOFA paid \$658,562 to direct mailing firms in DC, Virginia, and North Carolina, including Acculink; Consolidated Mailing Services; Direct Support Services; and Integram. SOFA spent another \$273,630 on mail program support services, like list rentals, database management, postage, printing and graphic design. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

### **2013-2014: Spent \$2.1 Million on Direct Mail Firms**

In 2014 election cycle, SOFA paid \$2,157,150 to direct mailing firms in DC, Virginia, North Carolina and New Hampshire, including Base Connect, Inc; Capitol Caging Corporation; Century Data Systems Corp; Consolidated Mailing Services; Donorbureau; Integram; and Legacy Lists, Inc. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

### **Base Connect and Century Data Mailing Services Featured in Article about PACs that Spend Their Money on Direct Mail**

In May 2014, the *New York Times* wrote an article about Republican committees that spend small fractions of their overall revenue on political activity, but rather spend the bulk of their money on direct mailing firms. Base Connect and Century Data Mailing Services were the two main companies written about in the article. [New York Times, [5/06/14](#)]

### **Base Connect and Legacy Lists Inc were Partner Companies**

According to a 2010 *Salon* article, Base Connect and Legacy Lists Inc were all partner companies. [Salon, [7/29/10](#)]

### **“Base Connect... Repeatedly Accused Of Being ‘A Big Shell Game.’”**

“Zinke makes such appeals through a PAC he set up immediately after his election: Supporting Electing American Leaders (SEAL) PAC. [...] But most of it – a little over a quarter-million dollars – has been paid to three companies that all have the same Washington address. The address happens to be the one used by Base Connect, once known as BMW Direct, which has been repeatedly accused of being ‘a big shell game’ by exactly the kind of dickish lamestream media types who hang around with Wonkette in bars.” [Wonkette Media Empire, Wonkette Blog, [10/19/15](#)]

### **2013-2014: Paid Executive Director’s Firm \$237,043**

In 2014 election cycle, Scott Hommel’s firm, Battle Plan Strategies, was paid \$237,043 by Special Operations for America for “strategy consulting.” [Federal Election Commission, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

### **2014: \$9,710 from Other Committees’ Contributions**

In the 2014 election cycle, Special Operations for America received \$9,710 from other committees’ contributions. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

### **March 13: Received \$7,500 from Afghanistan & Iraq Veterans for Congress**

On March 6, 2013, SOFA received a \$7,500 contribution from Afghanistan & Iraq Veterans for Congress PAC. [Federal Election Commission, [3/06/13](#)]

### **April 13: Received \$710 from the Surprise Tea Party**

On April 18, 2013, SOFA received a \$710 from the Surprise Tea Party. [Federal Election Commission, [4/18/13](#)]

### **May 13: Received \$1,500 from Afghanistan & Iraq Veterans for Congress**

On May 10, 2013, SOFA received a \$1,500 contribution from Afghanistan & Iraq Veterans for Congress PAC. [Federal Election Commission, [5/10/13](#)]

### **2012: \$179,840 in Total Disbursements**

For the 2012 election cycle, SOFA had \$179,840 in total disbursements. [Federal Elections Commission, accessed 5/01/14]

### **\$172,840 for “Other Federal Operating Expenditures”**

\$172,840 of the disbursements went to “other federal operating expenditures.” [Federal Elections Commission, accessed 5/01/14]

### **\$7,000 for “Independent Expenditures”**

\$7,000 of the disbursements went to “independent expenditures.” [Federal Elections Commission, accessed 5/01/14]

### **Spent \$7,000 on Radio Ads in Nashville**

On October 9, 2012, SOFA paid WSM Radio in Nashville \$7,000 for radio ads. [Federal Elections Commission, [10/09/12](#)]

### **2012: \$182,378 in Total Contributions**

For the 2012 election cycle, SOFA received \$182,378 in total contributions. \$108,324 of contributions were itemized individual contributions while \$74,053 were un-itemized individual contributions. [Federal Elections Commission, accessed 5/01/14]

### **2012: Ended with \$2,537 Cash on Hand**

At the end of the 2012 election cycle, SOFA had \$2,537 cash on hand. [Federal Elections Commission, accessed 5/01/14]

## **Montana Republicans Criticized Zinke for SOFA PAC**

### **“Former GOP Chairmen Oppose Zinke.”**

“Recently all three of us, all former state Republican chairmen spoke out in opposition to Ryan Zinke’s bid to be Montana Republicans’ nominee for the lone U.S. Representative seat being vacated by Steve Daines.” [Hungry Horse News, [5/23/14](#)]

### **“Zinke is Wrong for Montana, say Three Former GOP Chairmen.”**

[Daily Inter Lake, [5/22/14](#)]

### **Former Republican Rep. Rick Hill: “There are Obvious Ethical Questions Surrounding His Association with SOFA PAC.”**

Rick Hill said “I have also been very open with my criticisms of Zinke. To my mind, there are the obvious ethical questions surrounding his association with SOFA (Special Operations for America) PAC and its promotion of his candidacy.” [Hungry Horse News, [5/23/14](#)]

### **Former GOP Gubernatorial Candidate Ken Miller: Concerned with Zinke’s Super PAC Ties**

Former Republican Gubernatorial candidate Ken Miler said: “I share Rick’s concern with Zinke’s close ties to a super PAC that is pouring money into the campaign promoting Zinke. Legal complaints have been filed because of the apparent coordination between the Super PAC and Zinke, which is prohibited by law.” [Hungry Horse News, [5/23/14](#)]

### **Republican State Senator John Brenden: “It’s kind of like Nepotism.”**

Republican State Senator John Brenden said about SOFA PAC and Zinke “That arm’s length situation can sometimes get a little cozy. It’s kind of like nepotism.” [Huffington Post, [5/07/14](#)]

## **Repeated Problems with the FEC**

### **2014: Two Advocacy Groups Filed a Complaint with FEC**

In March 2014, two based advocacy groups, the Campaign Legal Center and Democracy 21, who advocate for reducing the influence of money in politics, filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission against SOFA for illegal coordination. The groups alleged that television advertisements by SOFA appear to have photographs from the campaign. Campaign Legal Center senior counsel, Paul Ryan said, “If so, this is a clear violation of federal law that prohibits super PACS from republishing candidate campaign materials. This is just

another example of the myth of the independence between outside groups like SOFA and the candidates they support.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 3/06/14]

### **Zinke: “I Resigned [from SOFA] Weeks Before We Announced”**

In a 2014 interview with the Associated Press, Zinke said that he resigned from Special Operations for America “weeks before we announced.” Zinke said, “I resigned weeks before we announced. I wanted to make sure everything was aboveboard and squeaky clean.” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/17/14]

### **November 12, 2013: SOFA Located at Property Owned by Zinke**

Up until November 12, 2013, Special Operations for America was located at 336 W Second Street, Whitefish, a property that Zinke owned. [U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosures, Filed [12/07/13](#); Huffington Post, accessed [5/22/14](#)]

### **Zinke Reported No Rent from Property**

On his 2013 Personal Financial Disclosure, Zinke reported no rent from this property. Further, on Special Operations for America did not have any rent on their disbursements from its inception until March 31, 2014. [U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosures, Filed [12/07/13](#); Federal Election Commission, accessed 5/22/14]

### **New Chairman: “As Far as I Know, There is No Contact” With Zinke’s Campaign**

Special Operations for America’s current chairman, Gary Stubblefield, say that “as far as I know, there is no contact” with Zinke’s campaign. Stubblefield said, “As far as I know, there is no contact. We follow the guidelines very closely.” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/16/14]

### **November 2013: Denied Coordinating With SOFA**

In November 2013, Zinke was asked if Special Operations for America would be assisting his election effort. Zinke said, “I don’t know, because I don’t coordinate with them.” [AP, 11/03/13]

### **2014: Zinke said that “Gee, the Super PAC is Supporting Me”**

In January 2014, while speaking on the SOFREP Internet Radio Program, Zinke said “gee, the super PAC is supporting me.” Zinke said, “And before I had, committed for Congress, I left the super PAC. And, gee, the super PAC is supporting me, along with Tom Cotton, along with other groups. This is what the left does. The left likes to throw lies out, disinformation, fine. So, you know, I am squeaky clean, fully transparent, I’m glad that veterans’ groups are supporting me, but you know, there really is, there really is no issue.” [SOFREP, [1/27/14](#)]

### **July 2012: Received Warning from the Department of Defense over Armed Forces Insignia**

In July 2012, the *Missoula Independent* reported that Special Operations for America “received a stern warning” from the Department of Defense over the Super PAC’s use of trademarked armed forces insignia on its logo. [Missoula Independent, 7/26/12]

### **2013: SOFA said that Former MT Congressman was in “No Position to Bring up Ethics on Anyone”**

On October 27, 2013, Special Operations for America posted on Facebook responding to Rick Hill’s, a former Republican Representative from Montana, allegations of coordination. The post suggested that Hill should be investigated instead. Special Operations for America posted, “What should we do Friends?? Normally, we stay above the fray as an organization that is supported by Veterans, Military Families and Patriots, 100% ethical and 100% legal. HOWEVER when someone takes a direct shot, we think we need to respond. Rick Hill from Montana is taking shots at SOFA and suggesting we should be investigated -- C’MON RICK, if you had one ounce of ethics, you would be in the Governors Mansion right now. Maybe Rick is trying to TEST THE WATERS HIMSELF on a run for Congress (again), either way, he is in absolutely no position to bring up ethics on anyone.” [Facebook, [10/27/13](#)]

**April 2013: Filed Statement of Organization to Support a Single Candidate**

On April 17, 2013, Special Operations for America filed a Statement of Organization to support/oppose only one candidate. Previously, SOFA was a committee that supported more than one candidate. [Federal Election Commission, [4/17/13](#)]

**May 13: Received RFAI from FEC Regarding Statement of Organization**

On May 24, 2013, Special Operations for America received a Request for Additional Information from the Federal Election Commission, saying SOFA needed to submit a new Statement of Organization clarifying what type of Committee. [Federal Election, Commission, [5/24/13](#)]

**July 13: Filed Statement of Organization to Support More than One Candidate**

On July 1, 2013, Special Operations for America filed a Statement of Organization to support/oppose more than one Federal candidate. [Federal Election, Commission, [7/01/13](#)]

**2013: SOFA Paid \$4,030 for Research Consulting**

In 2013, SOFA paid Lester Cooper \$4,030 for research consulting.

DATE	NAME	PURPOSE	ST	AMOUNT
8/15/13	Cooper, Lester	Research Consulting	VA	\$1,000
11/4/13	Cooper, Lester	Research Consulting	VA	\$3,030
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$4,030</b>

[Federal Election Commission, 5/01/14]

**...& November 2013: Zinke's Campaign for Congress Paid Lester Cooper for Research**

On November 21, 2013, Zinke's campaign paid Lester Cooper \$1,412 for "research fees." [Federal Election Commission, accessed [5/07/14](#)]

**May 2013: Received 3 Requests for Additional Information from FEC**

On May 10, 2013, Special Operations for America received three separate Requests for Additional Information (RFAI) from the FEC regarding problems in its reports. [Federal Election Commission, accessed 5/01/14]

**May 2013: Received RFAI from FEC Regarding October Quarterly Report**

On May 10, 2013, Special Operations for America received a Request for Additional Information from the FEC regarding its October quarterly report. The FEC requested that SOFA properly identify individuals who contributed over \$200 or demonstrate "best efforts" of obtaining this information, as required by law. [Federal Election Commissions, [5/10/13](#)]

**May 2013: Received RFAI from FEC Regarding Four Items**

On May 10, 13, Special Operations for America received a Request for Additional Information from the FEC regarding its 30 day post-general election report. The RFAI referenced four problems:

- 1) The post-general report was not signed by the treasurer or designated agent
- 2) The beginning cash balance did not equal the ending balance of the 12 day pre-general report
- 3) Numerous total contributions were incorrect.
- 4) Some itemized disbursement did include the purpose. [Federal Election Commission, [5/10/13](#)]

**May 2013: Received RFAI from FEC Regarding Four Item on the Year-End Report**

On May 10, 13, Special Operations for America received a Request for Additional Information from the FEC regarding its year-end report. The RFAI referenced four problems:

- 1) The year-end report was not signed by the treasurer or designated agent
- 2) The beginning cash balance did not equal the ending balance of the 30 day post-general report
- 3) Numerous total contributions were incorrect

- 4) The report disclosed a negative ending cash balance, suggesting that the account was overdrawn, made a mathematical error, or incurred a debt. [Federal Election Commission, [5/10/13](#)]

### **June 2013: Amended Reports Responding to RFAs**

On June 12 and June 24, 13, Special Operations for America filed to miscellaneous reports to the FEC responding to the problems in the RFAs. [Federal Election Commission, [6/12/13](#); Federal Election Commission, [6/24/13](#)]

### **January 2014: SOFA Admitted That They Violated FEC's 48 Hour Disclosure Rule**

On January 31, 2014, Special Operations for America sent a miscellaneous report to the FEC. The report alleged that “a miscommunication [was] unearthed during the year end audit. The committee discovered that there were independent expenditures that aggregated over \$10,000 to a single candidate.” [Federal Election Commission, [1/31/14](#)]

*Note: Since it was more than \$10,000, SOFA should have reported it within 48 hours.*

### **2014: SOFA Received 6 RFAs from the FEC**

In 2014, SOFA received six more Requests for Additional Information from the FEC. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

### **SOFA: Always Looking for the Spotlight**

#### **August 2013: Zinke Wrote the President was “Playing Cards during the Raid to Get Bin Laden”**

In August 2013, Zinke wrote that the President was “playing cards during the raid to get bin Laden.” Zinke wrote, “It has been a busy week. Spent many hours talking with supporters and donors some of which are planning SOFA events for Sept and Oct. Spoke with Breitbart News about Obama playing cards during the raid to get Bin Laden.” [Facebook, [8/16/13](#)]

#### **2012: Outraged When Military Was Used for Political Gain**

In August 2012, Zinke said that “when the military is used for political gain, I think there’s an outrage and a concern.” Zinke said, “I think most Americans view our military as not a Republican or Democrat organization. They view it as an American organization – it’s all of ours. So when the military is used for political gain, I think there’s an outrage and a concern. We’re speaking out.” [Newsmax, 8/03/12]

#### **Zinke: SOFA was on “an Enemies List by the Obama Campaign”**

In a May 2013 letter-to-the-editor to the *Waycross Journal-Herald*, Zinke wrote, “during the 2012 elections, Special Operations for America was placed on an ‘enemies list’ by the Obama campaign,” Zinke wrote. [Waycross Journal-Herald, 5/18/13]

#### **2012: SOFA Commended Romney Selection of Paul Ryan as Running Mate**

In August 2012, the spokesman for Special Operations for America commended the pick of Paul Ryan for the vice presidency nomination. SOFA’s spokesperson said, “We believe Paul Ryan has the fiscal skills that will turn our economy around – America’s weak economic situation is a threat to our national security. We are confident that a Romney-Ryan administration will ensure America’s military is not gutted recklessly for political expediency and will remain the world’s pre-eminent power. If cuts need to be made, they will be made in a calculated and strategically planned process; not just throwing a huge figure on the wall, [as] is the case of sequestration.” [Politico, 8/13/12]

#### **July 2012: Spokesman Said SOFA was Aiming for a Budget of \$10 Million**

In July 2012, Scott Hommel, the spokesman for Special Operations for America said the group was aiming for a budget of \$10 million. [Gannett News Service, 7/18/12]

### July 2012: Zinke said SOFA Was “Going to be the Voice of Special Operations and the Military”

In July 2012, Zinke said that Special Operations for America was “going to be the voice of special operations and the military.” Zinke said, “We’re going to be the voice of special operations and the military and we’re going to do it in a professional, well-documented way [...] The administration has given us plenty of ammunition to outline why Obama needs to be defeated in the interest of national security.” [Daily Inter Lake, 7/19/12]

### July 2012: Zinke said SOFA Would “Advocate for the Election of Mitt Romney”

In July 2012, Zinke said that Special Operations for America would “advocate for the election of Mitt Romney and like-minded candidates.” Zinke said, “SOFA will advocate for the election of Mitt Romney and like-minded candidates who want to bring true leadership back to Washington and who believe in permanent and enduring American exceptionalism. Leadership that does not apologize and bow to the world for America’s greatness or politicize military operations for political gain. SOFA stands against the core threats to National security created and unchecked by the Obama administration. SOFA will strike to ensure that veterans and our families receive the care and benefits their sacrifice has earned.” [Washington Times, 7/19/12]

### 2014: Zinke said that SOFA “Was a Transparent Super PAC”

In January 2014, while speaking on the SOFREP Internet Radio Program, Zinke said that Special Operations for America “was a transparent Super PAC” Zinke said, “Well, you know, the left, which, when I, earlier I had run Special Operations for America, which was a super PAC for Romney. It was comprised of over 10,000 veterans, and it was a transparent super PAC. I mean, you could trace every dime.” [SOFREP, [1/27/14](#)]

### 2013: Shared Ryan Zinke for Congress’s Photo on Facebook

On May 2, 2014, Special Operations for America shared Ryan Zinke for Congress’s photo on Facebook.



[Facebook, [5/02/14](#)]

### March 2014: Congratulated Ryan Zinke for His “On the Radar” Designation

On March 26, 2014, Special Operations for America congratulated Ryan Zinke for receiving an “On the Radar” designation with the NRCC.



[Facebook, [3/26/14](#)]

### **July 2013: SOFA Sponsored NASCAR Car**

In July 2013, Special Operations for America sponsored FAS Lane Racing's Sprint Cup car number 32 in a NASCAR Sprint Cup series race. Zinke said, "We're proud to be part of NASCAR and this opportunity to reach millions of voters who share our time-honored, conservative values," said Zinke. "This is the type of grassroots effort that is needed in order to elect leaders who will restore America to its founding principles." [Special Operations for America, [7/27/12](#)]

### **Zinke: "America Needs Leaders with Integrity, Honor and Courage"**

In March 2013, when speaking of former Navy SEAL Gabriel Gomez candidacy for Senate, Zinke said, "America needs leaders with integrity, honor and courage." Zinke said, "The past 50 years have seen a dramatic decrease of congressional representatives who have served in our armed forces. With gridlock at an all-time high and our trust in government near record lows, America needs leaders with integrity, honor and courage." [Washington Times, 3/05/13]

### **2012: Zinke said SOFA Would Not Make Campaign "Personal"**

In July 2012, Zinke said that Special Operations for America was "not going to make it personal." Zinke said, "Special Operations, you know, we're going to be straightforward. We're not going to make it personal. We're going to be professional. What we say is well researched. We're going to stick to the facts and we're going to make a compelling argument of why the commander-in-chief needs to be changed." [Lou Dobbs Tonight, 7/26/12]

### **2012: SOFA Claimed that They Never Implied that Zinke was the Commander of SEAL Team 6**

In August 2012, Special Operations for America claimed that neither Zinke nor Special Operations for America had ever "implied that [Zinke] served as the Commander OF SEAL TEAM SIX." Special Operations for America wrote, "FOR THE RECORD: SOFA nor Ryan Zinke has never implied that he served as the Commander OF SEAL TEAM SIX. From day one we have said he served as a Commander AT SEAL TEAM SIX. There is a distinct difference." [Twitter, [5/15/14](#)]

### **July 2012: Zinke said that SOFA Was "Giving the Military A Voice"**

In a July 2012 appearance on Sean Hannity, Zinke said that Special Operations for America was "giving the military a voice." Zinke said, "Special Operations for America is a grassroots PAC, you know, aimed at giving the military a voice, giving special operations, the guys on active duty, the retired guys, a voice in what's happening. It is not just the leaks." [Fox Hannity, 7/26/12]

### **Zinke: Thought it was Appropriate for SEALs to Remain Faceless**

In May 2011, during an appearance on *Piers Morgan*, Zinke said it was appropriate for the SEAL Team Six that carried out the bin Laden mission to remain faceless. Zinke said, “You know I think in this case, to remain faceless is appropriate. There are still -- you know, this may be the end of a chapter, but it’s not the end of the book. There’s still, you know, very evil, very dangerous people out there that we need to address and to bring a face to the individual that pulled the trigger, I think -- you know, this is new ground.” [Piers Morgan, 5/03/11]

### **Miscellaneous Special Operations for America Information**

#### **July 2012: Former Senator, Conrad Burns Served on Board of Directors**

According to a July 2012 newspaper article, former Army Brigadier General Paul Vallely and former Montana Senator Conrad Burns were on the Board of Directors for SOFA. [Daily Inter Lake, 7/19/12]

### **SOFA Advertisements for Zinke’s Campaign**

#### **SOFA Ad: #Truth That Cuts Through The Lies & Attacks**

[5/23/14](#) 1:00

NARRATOR: In the race for Congress, one candidate stands out: Ryan Zinke. Former Navy SEAL with two Bronze Stars for combat in Iraq. Ryan Zinke. A strong conservative, pro-life and pro-Second Amendment. Ryan Zinke. He’ll fight for us, to cut spending, repeal Obamacare, and balance the budget. Ryan Zinke. A third generation Montanan. He’ll protect our way of life. Ryan Zinke. Endorsed by the US Chamber of Commerce. Good for jobs. Ryan Zinke. He’ll push for more coal, more oil and more gas, making our nation energy secure, boosting our state’s economy. Ryan Zinke. We’ve sent him to fight for us before, let’s send him again. Ryan Zinke, a strong leader for Montana.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the contents of this advertisement.*

#### **SOFA Ad: Best Candidate for Montana**

[5/17/14](#) :15

NARRATOR: For Congress, one candidate stands out: Ryan Zinke. Navy SEAL, pro-life and pro-second amendment. Ryan Zinke a strong leader for Montana.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the content of this message.*

#### **SOFA Ad: Maryland Values are NOT Montana Values**

[5/05/14](#) :15

NARRATOR: Meet Matt Rosendale, Matt’s from Maryland. Uh, huh, the ocean and the crabs. But Matt’s running for Congress in Montana? Come on Matt, Maryland values aren’t Montana values.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the content of this message.*

#### **SOFA Ad: Coffee Ad**

[5/05/14](#) 1:00 (Radio)

WAITRESS: What’ll you have?

COSTUMER: Coffee, please.

WAITRESS: Sure, anything else?

COSTUMER: Well, yeah...tell me what’s new in the race for Montana’s Congressional seat.

WAITRESS: Let’s see. How about the fact that one of the candidates, Matt Rosendale, isn’t from Montana? He moved here from Maryland.

COSTUMER: Matt Rosendale is from Maryland? No thank you. Which of the candidates from Montana do you like?

WAITRESS: I like Ryan Zinke.

COSTUMER: Isn’t Ryan Zinke the former Navy SEAL?

WAITRESS: Not only that. Ryan Zinke is a good conservative and a third generation Montanan. Ryan Zinke is pro-life and pro Second Amendment and Ryan Zinke will vote to appeal Obamacare.

COSTUMER: Ryan Zinke's values are my values.

WAITRESS: Ryan Zinke also wants to make America energy independent, with more oil, more gas, and more coal. That's good for jobs and that's good for our national security.

COSTUMER: Okay, you've convinced me. I'm voting for Ryan Zinke. Now, can I get another cup of coffee?

WAITRESS: This one's on the house.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the contents of this advertisement.*

#### **SOFA Ad: "A Strong Leader for Montana"**

[5/05/14](#) 0:15

NARRATOR: For Congress, one candidate stands out: Ryan Zinke. Navy SEAL, a third-generation Montanan. Ryan Zinke, a strong leader for Montana.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the content of this message.*

#### **SOFA Ad: Stubblefield Endorsement**

[4/17/14](#) 1:00 (Radio)

STUBBLEFIELD: I'm Gary Stubblefield, a fifth generation Montanan and a former U.S. Navy SEAL Commander. I want to speak with you about the Montana Congressional race. These are perilous times for America. President Obama's weak and indecisive foreign policy has emboldened some of the world's worse actors in places like Russia, Syria, North Korea and Iran. The actions we take now will determine whether America remains the world's super power, able to preserve for our children and grandchildren the prosperity we've known. That's why I'm voting for Ryan Zinke for Congress.

Ryan Zinke is a former Navy SEAL with two Bronze Stars for combat in Iraq. Ryan Zinke exemplifies the sacrifice and character we look for in our public leaders. Ryan Zinke believes in a strong military.

Ryan Zinke understands America's strength is the best friend that peace has ever known. I ask that you join me in supporting Ryan Zinke for Congress, because it's time we restored America's leadership position in the world.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the contents of this advertisement.*

#### **SOFA Ad: Information Helpline**

[12/02/13](#) 1:00 (radio)

(Phone rings)

WOMAN: Information helpline.

CALLER: I'm calling about Montana's Congressional election. Who's running?

WOMAN: Oh, the usual crowd. But there is one person that stands out, Ryan Zinke.

CALLER: Really? What can you tell me about him?

WOMAN: Ryan Zinke is a third generation Montanan. A conservative Republican who believes in more jobs, balanced budgets, and lower debt.

CALLER: So far, so good.

WOMAN: That's not all. Ryan Zinke is a former Navy SEAL Commander, who received two Bronze Stars for combat in Iraq.

CALLER: A Navy SEAL? You don't see that every day.

WOMAN: Ryan Zinke was assigned to SEAL Team Six, one of the most respected military units in the world.

CALLER: Impressive. Where does he stand on the issues?

WOMAN: Ryan Zinke will stop Obamacare, protect our right to bear arms, and fight to make America energy independent.

CALLER: Wow. A Navy SEAL who shares my values.

WOMAN: I told you he's special. Ryan Zinke will be a strong leader in Congress for Montana's families.

*Special Operations for America is responsible for the contents of this advertisement.*

## SEAL PAC

- ✓ Zinke’s Leadership PAC has already faced similar issues as SOFA PAC.
- ✓ Despite having raised \$848,373 in a year, SEAL PAC spent most of its funds and even incurred debt, but only \$19,200 went to other candidates, or 2.2 percent.
- ✓ The vast majority of expenditures went to fundraising, nearly \$300,000.
- ✓ In just over a year, SEAL PAC received three Requests for Additional Information from the FEC.
- ✓ The leadership PAC has raised money off of Congressional Medals.

### **Supporting Electing American Leaders (SEAL) PAC**

On October 30, 2014, Zinke filed the paperwork for his leadership PAC, Supporting Electing American Leaders (SEAL) PAC under treasurer Lorna Kunej. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

### **SEAL PAC Contributed To Dan Bacon, Brian Mast, AND Congressman Joe Heck, & The NRCC**

“Zinke makes such appeals through a PAC he set up immediately after his election: Supporting Electing American Leaders (SEAL) PAC. It is ostensibly working to elect more military members to Congress. And, in fact, as shown in its third quarter report filed Thursday, SEAL PAC has contributed a total of \$5,500 this year to Dan Bacon, running for Congress in Nebraska; Brian Mast, trying to win Allen West’s former seat in Florida; and Congressman Joe Heck, running for Senate in Nevada. It has also given \$10,000 to the National Republican Congressional Committee. That’s a pittance of the roughly \$400,000 the PAC has spent, however, raised mostly from relatively small-money donors all over the country. Another \$23,000 or so has gone to two friends-of-Mitt consulting firms in Massachusetts, Shawmut Group and SwiftKurrent.” [Wonkette Media Empire, Wonkette Blog, [10/19/15](#)]

### **SEAL PAC Contributed “A Pittance” To Candidates Compared To How Much He Raised & Paid Consultants**

“Zinke makes such appeals through a PAC he set up immediately after his election: Supporting Electing American Leaders (SEAL) PAC. It is ostensibly working to elect more military members to Congress. And, in fact, as shown in its third quarter report filed Thursday, SEAL PAC has contributed a total of \$5,500 this year to Dan Bacon, running for Congress in Nebraska; Brian Mast, trying to win Allen West’s former seat in Florida; and Congressman Joe Heck, running for Senate in Nevada. It has also given \$10,000 to the National Republican Congressional Committee. That’s a pittance of the roughly \$400,000 the PAC has spent, however, raised mostly from relatively small-money donors all over the country. Another \$23,000 or so has gone to two friends-of-Mitt consulting firms in Massachusetts, Shawmut Group and SwiftKurrent.” [Wonkette Media Empire, Wonkette Blog, [10/19/15](#)]

### **SEAL PAC “A Little Over A Quarter-Million Dollars” To “Three” Companies With The “Same Washington Address.”**

“Zinke makes such appeals through a PAC he set up immediately after his election: Supporting Electing American Leaders (SEAL) PAC. [...] But most of it – a little over a quarter-million dollars – has been paid to three companies that all have the same Washington address. The address happens to be the one used by Base Connect, once known as BMW Direct, which has been repeatedly accused of being ‘a big shell game’ by

exactly the kind of dickish lamestream media types who hang around with Wonkette in bars.” [Wonkette Media Empire, Wonkette Blog, [10/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Leadership PAC Raised Money Off Congressional Medals**

“Support Ryan Zinke’s Bill Congressman Zinke has introduced legislation that would bestow Congressional Gold Medals to the four fallen heroes of the Benghazi terrorist attack and he needs your help building support. Will you stand with Ryan to honor Ambassador Chris Stevens, Air Force veteran and Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith, and retired Navy SEALs Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods? Sign the petition to show your support for the Benghazi Four and prove that these four patriots did not die in vain.” [SEAL PAC, Facebook, Accessed [5/27/15](#)]

### **SEAL PAC: “Sign The Petition To Show Your Support For The Benghazi Four And Prove That These Four Patriots Did Not Die In Vain.”**

“Support Ryan Zinke’s Bill Congressman Zinke has introduced legislation that would bestow Congressional Gold Medals to the four fallen heroes of the Benghazi terrorist attack and he needs your help building support. Will you stand with Ryan to honor Ambassador Chris Stevens, Air Force veteran and Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith, and retired Navy SEALs Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods? Sign the petition to show your support for the Benghazi Four and prove that these four patriots did not die in vain.” [SEAL PAC, Facebook, Accessed [5/27/15](#)]

### **MORE FEC CONCERNS**

#### **SEAL PAC In Just Over a Year, 3 RFAs from FEC**

In just over a year, SEAL PAC received three Requests for Additional Information from the FEC. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

### **SEAL PAC FINANCIALS**

Despite having raised \$848,373, SEAL PAC spent most of its funds and even incurred debt, but only \$19,200 went to other candidates, or 2.2 percent.

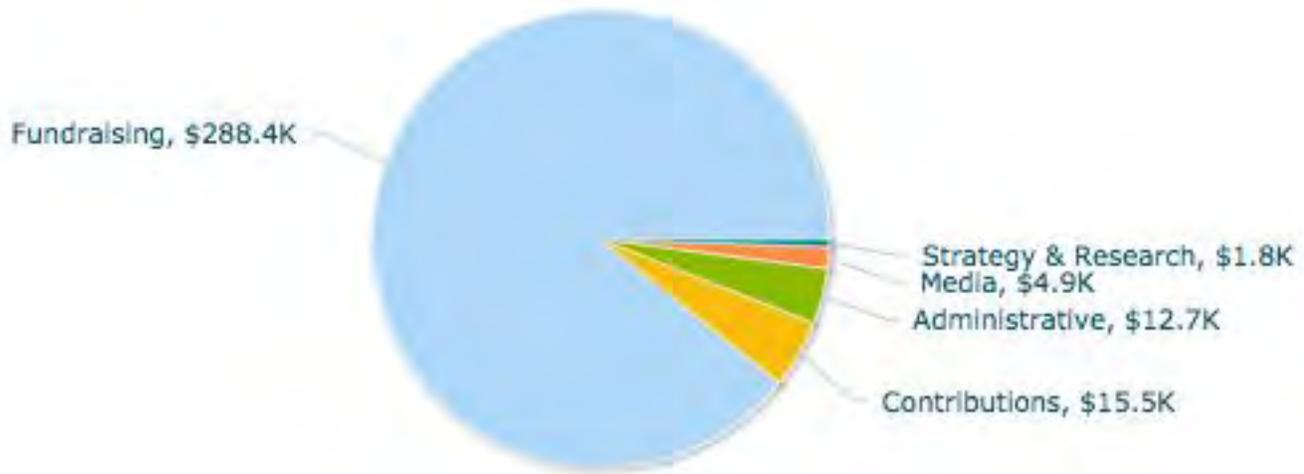
Total Receipts	\$848,373
Total Spent	\$781,485
Begin Cash on Hand	\$0
End Cash on Hand	\$66,888
Debts	\$0
Date of last report	December 31, 2015

### **2016 PAC Contribution Data**

<i>Contributions from this PAC to federal candidates (list recipients)</i> (0% to Democrats, 100% to Republicans)	\$19,200
<i>Contributions to this PAC from individual donors of \$200 or more ( list donors)</i>	\$187,360

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

## SEAL PAC's Expenditure Analysis



[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

Sector	Description	Total Expenditures
<b>Administrative</b>	Accountants, compliance & legal services	\$11,777
	Administrative event expenses & food	\$925
<b>Contributions</b>	Contributions to national parties	\$10,000
	Contributions to federal candidates	\$5,500
<b>Fundraising</b>	Fundraising mailings & calls	\$255,420
	Fundraising data & technology	\$31,241
	Fundraising consulting	\$1,750
<b>Media</b>	Web ads	\$2,977
	Media consulting	\$1,900
<b>Strategy &amp; Research</b>	Campaign strategy & communications consulting	\$1,750

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

## Top Vendors & Recipients

Rank	Vendor/Recipient	Total Expenditures
1	Direct Support Services	\$170,361
2	Consolidated Mailing Services	\$76,088
3	Forthright Strategy, Inc	\$44,540
4	Swiftcurrent	\$16,827
5	Legacy Lists, Inc - Brokerage	\$16,415
6	Bowditch & Dewey	\$11,777
7	Direct Support Systems, Inc	\$10,739
8	Shawmut Group	\$5,250
9	Legacy Lists, Inc - Management	\$4,087
10	Integram	\$3,854

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

## Contributions to Other Candidates & Committees

### House

Total to Democrats: \$0  
Total to Republicans: \$4,000

Recipient	Total
Banks, Jim (R-IN)	\$1,500
LoBiondo, Frank A (R-NJ)	\$1,000
Mast, Brian (R-FL)	\$1,500

### Senate

Total to Democrats: \$0  
Total to Republicans: \$15,200

Recipient	Total
Ayotte, Kelly (R-NH)	\$2,700
DeSantis, Ron (R-FL)	\$10,000
Heck, Joe (R-NV)	\$2,500

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

## SEAL PAC's Top Contributors

### Top 20 Contributors to Leadership PAC

Download: [CSV](#) [XML](#) [JSON](#) [?](#)

Rank	Contributor	Total	Indivs	PACs
1	Ariel Corp	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
2	AG Hill Partners	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
2	<a href="#">UBS Americas</a>	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
4	Nance Petroleum	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
5	Home Interiors & Gift Inc	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
5	<a href="#">Honeywell International</a>	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
5	Langlas & Assoc	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
5	Summit Beverage	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
5	VIGOP	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
10	Acac Fitness & Wellness Centers	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
11	Security Holdings LLC	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
12	Artmarina Inc	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
12	Sequoia Capital	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
12	SJC V LLC	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
12	Wilson Industrial	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
16	Pollard Ford	\$900	\$900	\$0
17	Richmond University Medical Center	\$875	\$875	\$0
18	McGlinchey Stafford PLLC	\$825	\$825	\$0
19	Clive Runnells Enterprises	\$500	\$500	\$0
19	Cly-Del Manufacturing	\$500	\$500	\$0
19	Douglas Allred Co	\$500	\$500	\$0
19	Hallinan Capital	\$500	\$500	\$0
19	News America	\$500	\$500	\$0

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [3/18/16](#)]

## KEY MOMENTS ON VIDEO

*NOTE: This section highlights some of Zinke's most interesting moments on video.*

### 2016: Steamboat Institute Comments on Defense & Foreign Policy

In January 2016, Zinke gave remarks and did a question and answer session at the Steamboat Institute Summit on Foreign Policy & Global Security. [YouTube, [1/22/16](#)]



### Among Zinke's Notable Quotes:

But we ignore a continuing expansion of Persia and I think the hundred billion dollars we gave them or so, I call it a terrorist stimulation package. Because you look at the scale, I mean that is literally a look at the Iranian budget and how much is a hundred billion dollars? Well, their total budget is somewhere between three hundred and maybe four hundred billion a year. So that's an economic stimulus package on a scale of greater than what we did. And, that's a lot of money.

They call the AC130 gunship, that gunship that was not given authorization to engage. Why? Because our rules of engagement have changed, where the ground force commander can't talk directly to the air assets. They got to go over to the headquarters. And, the headquarters evaluates whether or not there's collateral damage. And, the collateral damage is, is it a building? Is it a military installation? Is it unknown? The collateral damage is also combatants. Today we find ourselves in a quagmire where the threshold is "reasonable certainty." What does that mean? It's not just a uniform -- carrying a weapon doesn't make you a combatant. I guess you have to point it in a general direction and squeeze the trigger, even that, if they don't hit you it, even that might not be certainty.

As you flush out ISIS, you have to backfill it with a stay behind force that is the right mix. If you're in the Anbar province in Iraq, which is Sunni, you better have the backfill being Sunni. Same things with the Kurds. Same thing with the side's that's a complicated ordeal that can only be obtained with having a relationship with our allies.

I'm a former geologist, I was told when I went to school, by the way I played for the Ducks, I went to school – football, that's why I didn't study that much.

They're going to blow through this fifty to a hundred billion dollars, and it's going to do havoc. They're going to fund terrorist activities, mostly I believe they're going to be funding Russia. Because Russia has a

bill that they're going to give Iran. You know it takes about the price of oil, Russia needs about eighty three dollars a barrel to break even.

I think this is a relatively good chance that Iran will have a nuclear weapon before the end of this administration. I do. And whether they get it from North Korea, whether they get it from a different source, I think it's a realistic -- I'd say it's almost a probability -- on it. So what happens? That can't stand. And, we have to be prepared to act.

I think we left Iraq too soon. I did. I think we made three mistakes in Iraq. I think we dismantled the Iraqi military too soon. Because we sent out on the unemployment lines, the very people that had some skill, and we say what that consequence was.

I was a Special Forces commander so I dealt with Iraq as a whole, I wasn't limited to one area. In my assessment, they viewed American's commitment as a stabilizing force and the momentum was there. As -- I think we had it won. We had it in the bag, we could have -- I think, sustained it with far less troops. And, if we hadn't left I don't think we would have had the ISIS swallowing. You look at where ISIS came from, it's an offshoot of Al Qaeda. We watched ISIS grow from just a few hundred. I do believe that we gave them the initial seed money because we were looking for any group that would rise against Assad. And, it's likely we did give them the seed money.

But, I agree with your assessment and by the way Obama's number is 1-800 bad man. [YouTube, [1/22/16](#)]

### **2013: Said He Had “to Respect Senator Cruz” When Referring to Cruz’s Filibuster**

During an October 2013 interview, Zinke said he had “to respect Senator Cruz” when referring to his filibuster of a federal appropriations bill because it contained funding for the Affordable Care Act. Zinke said, “Well, you know, I have to respect Senator Cruz. I mean, he did exactly what he said, and he, you know, I think, understands that Obamacare is terrible. I think, I think, the play is, what are we going to do about it?” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]



*Note: An interview where his photo was just pictured and he had called in*

### **May 2014: Said “We’re the Ones that Failed to Provide a Vision”**

During a May 2014 debate, Zinke said “I blame the Republican Party. We’re the ones that failed to provide a vision.” Zinke said, “Oh, I don’t blame the Democrats, not our President. I blame the Republican Party. We’re the ones that failed to provide a vision. We’re the ones that failed to provide a better future.” [YouTube, accessed [5/30/14](#)]



**2013: Zinke said He'd "Give [Paul] Ryan a Kudos" But "The Cuts Really Aren't Deep Enough"**

In December 2013, on the *Voices of Montana* radio program, Zinke said that "he'll give [Paul] Ryan a kudos" but that "the [budget] cuts really aren't deep enough to matter," when discussing the Murray-Ryan funding bill. Zinke said, "Well, no, I think, I think, you know, we should all look at what's happening in D.C., and you know, the budget's an importance, you know, there's some positive on it, some positive, they had an agreement, although I think the agreement falls short of the objective, but at least we had an agreement, I mean so something is moving in Washington, and I'll give Ryan a kudos on that one, but I just don't think that the cuts, you really can't take them seriously, because the cuts really aren't deep enough to matter. Not, when you're talking a \$17 trillion budget." [Voices of Montana, 12/11/13]

*Note: Only his voice, radio clip.*

**2014: Said Problem "with the Republican Party, We Don't Have Vision"**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said "part of it is the problem with the Republican Party, we don't have vision." Zinke said, "Part of it is the problem with the Republican Party, we don't have vision. Tell me what the Republican Party vision is for immigration? Tell me what the Republican Party vision is for energy? Let's pick a good one, debt reduction." [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

**Zinke: "Last Time Our Party Had Vision was Newt Gingrich"**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said "probably the last time our party had vision was Newt Gingrich. Zinke said, "Probably the last time our party had vision was Newt Gingrich." [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

*Note: An interview where his photo was just pictured and he had called in.*

**2014: Called for Obama's Impeachment**

During a May 2014 debate, Zinke said that President Obama should be impeached over Benghazi and then winked.

ZINKE: So I think, in the fall, we're gonna win. I think we'll have the Senate and the House and then I do believe we can put the President on the run. He's had six years of doing his will to this country and I believe the intentional dismantling of American power, both domestically and abroad. So is impeachment in the cards? Let's hope we have the votes.

TURIANO: Is that a yes or a no?

ZINKE: Yes. [YouTube, accessed [5/30/14](#)]



### **Zinke: “I am Not Taking a Paycheck”**

Appearing on the Fox News’ “The Hannity Show,” Zinke said “I am not taking a paycheck.” Zinke said, “The unfortunate part of politics, our voice is in a relationship to how much money we have. I am not taking a paycheck. I am doing this for God and country, but we are going to be very, careful in our deliver of message. We want to make sure what we say is well documented and we don’t hit below the belt. I don’t dislike the president personally. I dislike his policies as commander chief and as president.” [Fox News, [7/26/12](#)]

### **2014: Bragged About Allen West’s Support of his Campaign**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke bragged about Allen West’s support of Zinke’s campaign. Zinke said, “So why does Burns and Allen West support me? Because they know I’m going to put America first. I don’t yield to pressure. Ever. Only higher principle. I want to restore and rebuild America.” [YouTube, accessed [5/13/14](#)]



### **May 2014: Zinke said “I have a 100 Percent Voting Record with Right for Life”**

In May 2014, Zinke said “I have a 100 percent voting record with Right for Life.” Zinke said, “I’m pro-life, I have a 100 percent voting record with Right for Life. I’m the only candidate up here that ever ran and passed a pro-life bill protecting unborn victims.” [YouTube, [5/29/14](#)]



### **2013: Zinke Said Marrying a Woman Showed He Didn't Hate Women**

In January 2013, Zinke was on the Tim Constantine radio show to talk about the Department of Defense's new policy to allow women in frontline combat positions. While there, he said that his opposition to allowing women in frontline combat positions "doesn't mean that I hate women, I married one." Zinke said, "Why not just call it for what it is? There are differences between men and women, okay. That doesn't mean that I hate women, I married one." [YouTube, [1/28/13](#)]

### **January 2014: Zinke's Advice for Veterans, "Don't Be a Victim"**

In January 2014, on the SOFREP Internet Radio Program, Zinke gave advice to veterans and said "You know, don't be a victim. We need to police ourselves, because it's easy to become a victim, right?" Zinke said, "They need, they need the guys in the Vietnam era, the Korean guys, even the World War II, they, they need a mentor, kind of as, you know, as a light the porch, to say, look, you know, your problems aren't unique, we've all suffered through this. You know, don't be a victim. We need to police ourselves, because it's easy to become a victim, right?" [SOFREP Internet Radio Program, [1/27/14](#)]

*Note: Only his voice, radio clip*

### **2014: Said He Would Not Engage in Negative Campaigning**

In January 2014, speaking at Hometown Helena, Zinke said his campaign would not engage in negative campaigning and that he would be "the happy candidate." Zinke said, "And a run for politics is an ugly business. We're going to be the happy candidate. We're going to run with Reagan's 11<sup>th</sup> commandment, not going to say anything ill about fellow Republicans, we're not going to hit the Democrat, we're going to go on American values. If it's a football game, if you watch football, we're going to go right off, right tackle; a little right of center, but not on the sidelines." [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

### **May 2014: Said He Would Run a "Positive" Campaign**

In May 2014, during a KMMS radio interview, Zinke said "we're gonna run a positive, Reagan 11th Commandment campaign." Zinke said, "You look at the Republican Party that circle the wagons and shoot in, and you know, our campaign is very, very positive, we hold to our word we're gonna run a positive, Reagan 11th Commandment campaign, where we're not going to speak ill of any other Republican because you have to show leadership by example and that's hugely important, you know." [YouTube, accessed [5/14/14](#)]

### **Zinke Discussed Government Regulations, Republican Talent In Congress, Being A Navy Seal, Energy Independence, MT Cell Phone Coverage.**

[Fox News, Freshman Class, [5/26/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **2015: Zinke Delivered The Republican Response To The President's Weekly Address.**

[YouTube, House Republicans, [6/20/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Claimed Harry Reid Said the 2016 NDAA Was a "Waste Of Time" Because the President Threatened to Veto It**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President's weekly address: "Good morning. My name is Ryan Zinke. I'm proud to hail from the great state of Montana, and humbled to be the first Navy SEAL to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. I was a SEAL for 23 years, but these days, I'm a military dad. Our daughter is a Navy diver, our son-in-law is an active duty SEAL. I take our constitutional duty to provide for the common defense seriously and personally. So you can imagine how I felt when Senator Harry Reid said recently that supporting a bill to help our troops was a 'waste of time.' He was talking about a plan that provides the resources for critical medical supplies, food, body armor, and ammunition. This plan also gives our troops a pay raise. A raise that I think we can all agree they've earned. But because President Obama threatened to veto the bill, Senator Harry Reid thought it was all a 'waste of time.'" [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Democrats Were Holding the 2016 NDAA “Hostage” Because They Wanted More Money For The IRS And The EPA**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President’s weekly address: “You’re probably wondering, ‘why would the president threaten to veto a bill supporting our troops?’ Well, it actually has nothing to do with national security. You see, the president and his party want more money for big government agencies like the IRS and the EPA. And in order to get it, they plan to hold our troops hostage. I’m afraid there’s more. Not only are Democrats set in blocking a pay raise for our troops, but if they don’t get more money for the IRS and EPA, they intend to shut down the entire federal government.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Democrats Intended “To Shut Down The Entire Federal Government.”**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President’s weekly address: “You’re probably wondering, ‘why would the president threaten to veto a bill supporting our troops?’ Well, it actually has nothing to do with national security. You see, the president and his party want more money for big government agencies like the IRS and the EPA. And in order to get it, they plan to hold our troops hostage. I’m afraid there’s more. Not only are Democrats set in blocking a pay raise for our troops, but if they don’t get more money for the IRS and EPA, they intend to shut down the entire federal government.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Democrats Would Vote “Against Our Troops” To “Win More Money For Their Washington Bureaucracies.”**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President’s weekly address: “Members of the President’s party have lost sight of this. They will actually vote against our troops and try to win more money for their Washington bureaucracies. How can they explain that at a 4th of July parade or military ceremony? That’s what I’d like to know. Mr. President, I appeal to you as Commander-in-Chief to stop this game your party is playing with our national security. It’s dangerous and it’s wrong. Do the right thing. Help give our troops the resources they need and the pay they deserve. God bless America, and God bless the men and women who defend her.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “No Price Can Be Attached To The Sacrifices Of The Men And Women In Uniform Are Willing To Make.”**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President’s weekly address: “Taking care of our troops should be our top priority, but it isn’t on the Democrats’ to-do list right now. They’ve lost sight of American values in favor of Washington politics. To think President Obama still has no strategy to defeat and destroy ISIS, yet his party has a strategy to get more money for the IRS. I’ve been to war. I know the consequences and sacrifice it takes. If we must fight, we fight to win. We need to make sure our troops have the right equipment, the right training, and the rules of engagement to win decisively on the field of battle. And when we send our troops to war, we need a plan to make sure we bring them home safely. Making sure our men and women are safe on the battlefield and are well taken care of when they get home, that’s the least we can do. No price can be attached to the sacrifices of the men and women in uniform are willing to make.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

## ABORTION & WOMEN'S ISSUES

- ✓ **ANTI-CHOICE AFTER 2011:** Zinke has been stressing his pro-life credentials since about 2011, and voting accordingly. He voted to require life-saving care to an infant born alive during an abortion, stripping abortion funding from NIH & FDA, voted to prohibit abortions after 20 weeks, and opposed an exception for the health of the woman, to make the “Hyde Amendment” permanent law, parental notification for minors under 16, and no constitutional right to abortions. He even sponsored a bill to criminalize a criminal offense involving the death of an unborn child.
- ✓ **MODERATELY PRO-CHOICE BEFORE 2011:** Zinke claimed he was wary of government deciding for women on abortion, voted against calling “the protection of unborn life a compelling state interest,” voted against defining a person at conception, claimed the decision was “the providence of God and family,” and he supported abortion within the first trimester, and in cases of rape or incest, a danger to the woman.
- ✓ **PLANNED PARENTHOOD:** Zinke has voted repeatedly with the extreme wing of his party to defund Planned Parenthood, investigate the organization, and make it easier for states to cut off funding.
- ✓ **WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES:** Zinke voted against ensuring a bill would not prevent women from receiving health services, for repealing DC law banning contraceptive usage discrimination, against protecting women's medical privacy, and to repeal unisex insurance law provisions.
- ✓ **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT:** Zinke voted against exempting federal protections against sexual and domestic abuse from added legal challenges.
- ✓ **EQUAL PAY:** In his 2014 campaign, Zinke claimed to support “equal pay for equal work,” but in Congress he has voted against equal pay and twice to block the Paycheck Fairness Act.
- ✓ **WOMEN IN THE MILITARY:** Zinke cosponsored a bill to include women in the draft, as a ploy to scare people into opposing women in combat. The same tactic was used in the 1970s & 1980s as a scare tactic to block the Equal Rights Amendment.
- ✓ **WAR ON WOMEN:** Zinke had 0% NARAL rating, and a 100% Right for Life voting record. He voted to require written permission from a parent for a student to attend sex education classes.

## WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

### Zinke: “I Believe In The Value Of Life.”

“Montana abortion laws are generally lenient, according to pro-choice activists. The state received an A- grade from NARAL Pro-Choice America, which ranks states according to their permissive abortion laws. However, certain laws still cause debate. [...] Montana U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, a Republican, said on his website during his campaign for Congress in 2014: ‘I believe in the value of life. I believe we must prepare our children for tomorrow with the family values of my grandparents. I believe in the value of life. I have fought for that value. I am the only candidate to carry a right to life bill, protecting unborn victims and ensuring that all life should be protected.’ [Newsmax, [10/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for Requiring an Infant Born Alive During An Abortion to Receive Same Level of Care**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would require health care practitioners to give the same level of care to an infant born alive during a failed abortion as they would give to any other infant born at the same gestational age. The bill also would require health care practitioners to ensure that these infants are immediately sent to a hospital. Health care practitioners and hospital and abortion clinic employees who know about a violation would be required to report the failure to comply with these requirements to law enforcement. People who violate these requirements regarding level of care and reporting violations would be subject to criminal fines or up to five years in prison, or both. The bill would prohibit the prosecution of mothers of born-alive infants for either conspiracy to violate born-alive protections or as accessory to the crime. The bill also would allow mothers to file lawsuits against health care providers who fail to appropriately care for born-alive infants from failed abortions.” The bill passed by a 248-177 vote. [CQ, [9/18/15](#); H.R. 3504, Vote 506, [9/18/15](#)]

### **Doctors Would Face Up To 5 Years In Prison**

“Per the bill, ‘the term ‘born alive’ means the complete expulsion or extraction from his or her mother, at any stage of development, who after such expulsion or extraction breathes or has a beating heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, regardless of whether the umbilical cord has been cut.’ Physicians could face up to five years of prison time for lack of adherence to this measure and may also face civil suits from women who wish to press charges.” [Yahoo News, [9/18/15](#)]

### **American Congress of Ob. & Gyn.: “A Disservice to America’s Women & Gross Legislative Interference into the Practice of Medicine”**

“In a statement, Mark S. DeFrancesco, MD, president of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, called the passage of H.R. 3504 ‘a disservice to America’s women and gross legislative interference into the practice of medicine, putting politicians between women and their trusted doctors. This bill and others like it are part of a larger attempt to deny women access to safe, legal, evidence-based abortion care,’ he said in the statement. ‘We urge the United States Senate and the President to stand with women and stand up for safe medical care, by preventing this and other legislation like it to become law.’” [Yahoo News, [9/18/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Stripping Language Prohibiting Federal Money for Abortion In NIH & FDA Funding**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against “a Democratic amendment to strip bill language added in the final stages that would make policy riders in the fiscal 2016 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill – including those prohibiting federal dollars for abortion – applicable to the NIH and FDA funding stream.” The amendment failed, 176 to 245. [HR 6, [Vote #432](#), 7/10/15; CQ News, [7/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Believe In The Sanctity Of Life.”**

“I believe in the sanctity of life.” [Twitter, [@RepRyanZinke](#), [5/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Believe Congress Has A Responsibility to Give a Voice to Those Who Are Voiceless.”**

“Today, a bipartisan majority of the U.S. House of Representatives voted to protect innocent life by approving legislation that would outlaw elective abortions after five months. The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.R. 36), which Congressman Ryan Zinke co-sponsored, passed the House 242-184. ‘I believe in the sanctity of life, and I believe Congress has a responsibility to give a voice to those who are voiceless,’ said Zinke. ‘I think we all agree that the safety and health of the mother and her child is a top priority. We must all work together in a bipartisan manner to help make late terminations as rare as possible, while also coming together as a community to support women who face difficult situations.’” [Office of Rep Zinke, Press Release, [5/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Prohibit Abortions After 20 Weeks With Exceptions for the Life of the Mother, Rape, & Incest**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. It would

provide exceptions for cases in which the woman's life is in danger as well as for pregnancies that are a result of rape if, as amended, for pregnancies that are a result of rape against an adult woman, the woman received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. An exception would be provided for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor if the rape or incest had been previously reported to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to act on reports of child abuse. As amended, the bill would require a second doctor trained in neonatal resuscitation to be present for abortions where the fetus has the 'potential' to survive outside the womb, and, if the fetus is born alive, the bill would require that the infant be provided medical care and immediately be transported and admitted to a hospital. As amended, women wishing to have abortions under the bill's exceptions would need to sign (along with the doctor and a witness) an informed consent authorization form detailing the age of the fetus and stating that, if born alive, would be given medical assistance and transported to a hospital." The bill passed by a vote of 242-184. [CQ, [5/13/15](#); H.R. 36, Vote 223, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Health of Mother Exception to 20-Wk Abortion Ban**

May 2015, Zinke voted against: "Brownley, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would add an exception to the 20-week abortion ban for abortions necessary to save the health of the pregnant woman." The motion was rejected by a vote of 181-246. [CQ, [5/13/15](#); H.R. 36, Vote 222, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Voted for Limiting Women's Access to Reproductive Services**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, which restricted federal funding for abortions and abortion coverage. "The House did easily pass H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2015, sponsored by Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.). White House advisers said they would recommend a veto should the bill reach the president's desk. The Hyde Amendment already prevents the use of federal funds to pay for abortion, except in cases of incest, rape and life endangerment of the mother. That is passed every year as part of an appropriations bill, but this bill would make that permanent law. The House bill would also restrict small businesses from getting an Affordable Care Act tax credit if they purchase employee health plans that include abortion coverage on the Small Business Health Options Program, or SHOP exchange." [HR 7, [Vote #45](#), 1/22/15; Politico, [1/22/15](#)]

### **Bill Would Give Big Insurance Companies Incentive to Drop Abortion Coverage**

"The bill gives insurers a big incentive to drop abortion coverage from their plans, or risk losing the large pool of consumers who receive the law's subsidies. Abortion coverage is historically relatively ubiquitous in health plans, so the effect could be far-reaching." [National Journal, [1/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke said "No One Has Worked Harder on An Issue"**

In May 2014, after being questioned about his pro-life stance from his Republican primary opponents, Zinke said that "no one has worked harder on an issue that I'm getting attacked for." Zinke said, "I find it ironic that no one has worked harder on an issue that I'm getting attacked for. I'm pro-life." [Billings Gazette, 5/04/14]

### **Zinke Called Himself "Pro-Life"**

In a March 2014 debate with Republican House candidates, Zinke called himself "pro-life," but stated he did not believe that the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion would be overturned. Zinke said, "I don't tell you things because that's what you want to hear; I tell you things because it's the truth. I value life." [Montana Standard, 3/25/14]

### **Touted Endorsement by Right for Life Executive Director**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, after being questioned by his former positive ranking from NARAL, Zinke said he was endorsed by the Executive Director of Montana's Right for Life. Zinke said, "I did sponsor the Unborn Victims Bill; I am endorsed by Greg Trude, who is the executive director of Right for Life. I did support parental notification, and I'm a Missouri Lutheran, I value life." [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Said Government Should Not Pay for Abortions**

At a March 2014 Republican primary debate, Zinke said we should make “sure the government doesn’t advocate or pay for” abortions. Zinke said, “I’m a social conservative. Are we gonna overturn Roe v. Wade? No. Am I pro-life? Yes. Why? Because it’s precious. I do believe that we can make grounds by making sure the government doesn’t advocate or pay for it, and we focus on education and prevention.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Voted on Bill Which Required Parental Notice of Abortion for Minors Under 16**

In April 2011, Zinke voted for a bill, which required physicians who were performing an abortion for a minor under 16 years of age, to notify one parent or legal guardian at least 48 hours before the abortion was performed. The bill passed (30-20). [[SB 97](#), [4/26/11](#)]

### **Voted for Referendum to Specify that There was No Constitutional Right to Abortions**

In April 2011, Zinke voted in favor of a bill that would send a constitutional amendment to the electors of Montana, to specify that the Montana constitution does not grant a right to an abortion or the public funding of an abortion. The bill passed (30-20). [[HB 574](#), [4/13/11](#); NARAL, [2011 Scorecard](#)]

### **Sp. Bill to Criminalize Offense Involving Death of an Unborn Child**

In March 2011, Zinke sponsored and voted to add the term “unborn child” when detailing the offense of deliberate homicide and mitigated deliberate homicide. The bill passed (29-21). [[HB 167](#), [3/31/11](#)]

### **Zinke Touted His Anti-Choice Bill in Republican Primary Debates**

“Well, that’s a good question. First, let me clear the record on what my record is. I’m pro-life – I have a 100% voting record with Right for Life. I’m the only candidate up here who ever ran, and passed a pro-life bill protecting unborn victims.” [GOP debate, [5/28/14](#)]

### **...BUT Wary of Allowing Government to Decide if a Woman Could Get an Abortion**

In February 2011, while the House debated a bill that would require women to have an ultrasound before they obtained an abortion, Zinke said that he was wary of giving the government the power to decide if a woman can get an abortion. Zinke further said that he would rather have that decision be made by a woman in consultation with her family and her church. [Char-Koosta News, 2/03/11]

### **...BUT Voted Against Calling “the Protection of Unborn Life a Compelling State Interest”**

In February 2009, Zinke voted against amending the Montana Constitution to add “the protection of unborn human life is a compelling state interest.” The bill passed (28-22). [[SB 46](#), [2/20/09](#)]

### **...BUT Voted Against Defining a Person at Conception**

In February 2009, Zinke voted against a bill to constitutionally define a person as “a human being at all stages of human development of life, including the state of fertilization or conception, regardless of age, health, level of functioning, or condition of dependency.” The bill passed (26-24). [[SB 406](#), [2/26/09](#)]

### **...BUT Zinke in 2008: “Decision to Abort a Child is the Providence of God and Family”**

On the 2008 Political Courage Test of Project Vote Smart, Zinke said that the “difficult to decision to abort a child is the providence of god and family, not government.” Zinke said, “I am pro-life, but believe that the difficult decision to Abort a child is the providence of God and family, not government. I support streamlining the adoption process to healthy and qualified homes. I further support parental notification.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Indicated that Abortion Should only be Legal Within the First Trimester**

On the 2008 Political Courage Test for Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that abortion should only be legal within the first trimester of pregnancy. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Indicated that Abortions Should be Legal In Instances of Incest or Rape**

On the 2008 Political Courage Test for Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that abortions should be legal in instances of incest or rape. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Indicated that Abortions Should be Legal When the Life of the Woman is Endangered**

On the 2008 Political Courage Test for Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that abortions should be legal when the life of the woman is endangered. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Opposed Allowing Pharmacists to Refuse to Dispense Emergency Contraception**

On the 2008 Political Courage Test of Project Vote Smart, Zinke opposed allowing pharmacists who conscientiously object to emergency contraception to refuse to dispense it. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **PLANNED PARENTHOOD**

### **Zinke Voted to Override Veto of 2010 Healthcare Law Repeal & Block Planned Parenthood Funding for a Year**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for: “Passage, over President Obama’s Jan. 8 2016, veto, of the bill that would repeal portions of the 2010 health care law and block federal funding for Planned Parenthood for one year. The bill would zero-out the law’s penalties for noncompliance with the law’s requirements for most individuals to obtain health coverage and employers to offer health insurance. The bill would scrap in 2018 the law’s Medicaid expansion, as well as subsidies to help individuals buy coverage through the insurance exchanges. It also would scrap certain taxes included in the law, including the tax on certain high-value employer-sponsored health insurance plans.” The override was rejected 241-186. [CQ, [2/2/16](#); H.R. 3762, Vote 53, [2/2/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Repeal Portions of the ACA & Block Funding for Planned Parenthood**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would repeal portions of the 2010 health care law, including: the requirements for most individuals to have health insurance and employers with more than 50 employees to offer it or face penalties, the 2.3 percent tax on the sale of medical devices, the tax on certain high-value employer-sponsored health insurance plans, and the Prevention and Public Health Fund. The measure also would block, for one year, federal funding for Planned Parenthood and would increase funding for community health centers by \$235 million in both fiscal 2016 and 2017.” The bill passed by a 240-189 vote. [CQ, [10/23/15](#); H.R. 3762, Vote 568, [10/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Investigate Planned Parenthood**

In October 2015, Zinke voted “to create a special committee to investigate Planned Parenthood and the handling of aborted fetal tissue, all but ensuring an already-fierce partisan battle will continue into 2016. In a nearly party-line vote, lawmakers voted 242 to 184 to establish a 13-member committee with broad power to investigate wrongdoing by Planned Parenthood amid allegations that it has tried to profit from the sale of aborted tissue.” [H Res 461, [Vote #538](#), 10/07/15; The Hill, [10/07/15](#)]

### **Committee Given Broad Jurisdiction to Investigate Abortion Practices, Including Recommendations to Change Abortion Laws**

Although the select committee was formed in response to videos edited to implicate that Planned Parenthood sold fetus tissue for profit, “[t]he words ‘Planned Parenthood’ do not appear in the resolution establishing the special committee. Its jurisdiction is considerably broader, encompassing ‘medical procedures and business practices used by entities involved in fetal tissue procurement’ and ‘any other relevant matters with respect to fetal tissue procurement.’ It also permits the committee to probe the subject of federal funding for abortion providers generally, the practices of providers who perform abortions in the second and third trimesters, and ‘medical procedures for the care of a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion.’ The committee is

also empowered to recommend changes in laws or regulations based on its findings.” [Washington Post, [10/07/15](#); USA Today, [10/07/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Defund Planned Parenthood**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for: ‘Adoption of the concurrent resolution (H Con Res 79) that would require the House enrolling clerk to add language to the CR defunding Planned Parenthood before it is sent to the president.’ The resolution was adopted by a 241-185 vote. [CQ, [9/30/15](#); H.Con.Res. 79, Vote 527, [9/30/15](#)]

### **...However, Zinke Voted for 2 Full Budgets Funding Planned Parenthood**

Zinke voted for two budget bills that contained funding for Planned Parenthood, including the December Omnibus agreement. [H.R. 2029, Vote 705, [12/18/15](#); H.R. 719, Vote 528, [9/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted 4 More Times Against Planned Parenthood Funding**

In 2015, Zinke voted five times to attempt to defund Planned Parenthood, in part or whole. [HR 3134, [Vote #504](#), 9/18/15; Democratic Leader – Motions To Recommit, [9/18/15](#); HR 3134, [Vote #505](#), 9/18/15; Washington Post, [9/18/15](#); HR 3495, [Vote #524](#), 9/29/15; Duffy Press Release, [9/29/15](#); H Con Res 79, [Vote #527](#), 9/30/15; CQ Floor Votes, [9/30/15](#); Fox News, [10/23/15](#)]

NOTE: Some of these votes already show up in this section.

### **A Planned Parenthood Official Said The Vote Was “A Callous Attempt To Insert Politics Into Women’s Health.”**

“In a 241-187 vote, nearly all Republicans and two Democrats approved legislation [HR 3134] that would block Planned Parenthood’s federal funding for one year, giving time for Congress to fully investigate claims of wrongdoing by the provider. [...] An official with the Planned Parenthood Action Fund ripped the vote as a ‘callous attempt to insert politics into women’s health.’ ‘Millions of Americans rely on Planned Parenthood for birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, and other critical preventive care, and nothing that politicians in Congress did today will change the fact that our doors remain open to everyone, in every part of this country, who needs high-quality, compassionate reproductive health care,’ said Eric Ferrero, the action fund’s vice president of communications.” [The Hill, Floor Action Blog, [9/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Consider Requiring Added Language Defunding Planned Parenthood Before Sent to the President**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for: ‘Adoption of the rule (H Res 448) that would provide for floor consideration of the bill (HR 719) that would require the Transportation Security Administration to classify individuals as criminal investigators eligible for law enforcement benefits, is the legislative vehicle for a stopgap continuing resolution, and the concurrent resolution (H Con Res 79) that would require the House enrolling clerk to add language to the CR defunding Planned Parenthood before it is sent to the president.’ The rule passed by a 239-187 vote. [CQ, [9/30/15](#); H.Res. 448, Vote 525, [9/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke’s Office: “Congressman Zinke Is Deeply Troubled By The Inhumane And Possibly Criminal Acts Depicted In The Videos”**

“Planned Parenthood supporters in Great Falls joined a national movement called ‘Pink Out Day’ with at least 240 events nationwide. They range from rallies, sex education, and free STD testing. The Great Falls Planned Parenthood event featured a four-block walk with the intention of delivering a letter to U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke’s (R-MT) regional office. Zinke voted in favor of a bill that would defund Planned Parenthood. [...] The bill that Rep. Zinke voted on was the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015. Zinke’s communication director Heather Swift said in a press release: ‘Like many Montanans, Congressman Zinke is deeply troubled by the inhumane and possibly criminal acts depicted in the videos, and voted to defund Planned Parenthood for one year while an investigation occurs. This vote in no way cuts funding for women’s health services. Rep. Zinke believes education and access to contraceptives, as well as regular checkups and screenings, are critical to the health and wellness of our neighbors. To that end, Zinke worked with leadership in

the House to improve the bill to ensure funding would remain for women's health services at rural and community health centers across Montana." [KRTV, [9/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Allow States to Deny Non-Abortion Health Care Reimbursements to Planned Parenthood**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for: "Passage of a bill that would amend title XIX of the Social Security act to allow states to exclude medical providers who perform abortions from the state's Medicaid contracts. The bill would expand the exceptions for which a state is not required to provide Medicaid reimbursements, allowing states to deny non-abortion health care reimbursements to medical providers such as Planned Parenthood." The bill passed by 236-193. [CQ, [9/29/15](#), H.R. 3495, Vote 524, [9/29/15](#)]

### **Planned Parenthood Supporters Delivered A Letter To Zinke In Response To His Vote To Defund The Organization**

"In response to the recent House vote to strip Planned Parenthood of federal funding, advocates of the organization from across the country have organized 227 events — including sex education teach-ins, rallies, and free STD testing — as part of a national 'Pink Out Day' on Sept. 29 to demonstrate the critical health care Planned Parenthood provides to millions of women, men and young people every year. In Great Falls, supporters plan a delegation from the local Planned Parenthood Clinic to the office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., who voted in favor of the bill to defund the organization. 'We do not appreciate Planned Parenthood being used as a political football in order to advance an agenda held by several extreme members of congress,' said Planned Parenthood community organizer Jules Shindel. Delegates will dress in pink, rallying at Planned Parenthood Clinic at noon before walking to Zinke's office and delivering a letter to his staff. After saying a few words at that location, everyone will walk back to the clinic. 'We believe that it's important to make our voices heard, so we are planning this march to let (Zinke) know we stand with Planned Parenthood,' said Shindel. 'We also want it to be clear that American people do not want Planned Parenthood defunded.'" [Great Falls Tribune, [9/28/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Motion to Protect Women's Access to Life-Saving Health Services**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against motion to recommit the Women's Public Health and Safety Act. "The Democratic Motion to Recommit protects American women's access to life-saving health care services from Republicans' attempt to defund Planned Parenthood by protecting any organization that provides life-saving health services, such as preventive care and cancer screenings, from being stripped of vital federal resources to serve America's families." The motion was rejected by a vote of 184-242. [HR 3495, [Vote #523](#), 9/29/15; Democratic Leader – Motions to Recommit, [9/30/15](#)]

### **Voted for Defunding Planned Parenthood**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for the Defund Planned Parenthood Act 2015 that "prohibits, for a one-year period, the availability of federal funds for any purpose to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., or any of its affiliates or clinics, unless they certify that the affiliates and clinics will not perform, and will not provide any funds to any other entity that performs, an abortion during such period. The restriction will not apply in cases of rape or incest or where a physical condition endangers a woman's life unless an abortion is performed." The bill passed 241 to 187. [H.R. 3134, [Vote #505](#), 9/18/15; CQ, [9/23/15](#)]

### **Defunding Planned Parenthood Would Increase Public Spending By \$130 Million Over 10 Years**

"Days before lawmakers must pass new legislation to fund the government, Republicans are vowing to reject any proposal that includes public money for Planned Parenthood. The move could trigger not only a shutdown, but if it succeeds, more bills for taxpayers. The Congressional Budget Office said in a new report on Thursday that cutting off the women's health organization from federal money would actually increase public spending by an estimated \$130 million over 10 years. ... The office's math: Halting federal funds to Planned Parenthood would shrink spending by \$520 million in the short run -- but, over the first decade, it would cost taxpayers an additional \$650 million." [Washington Post, [9/24/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Preventing Defunding Planned Parenthood**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that “shields American women’s access to lifesaving health care services from Republicans’ attempt to defund Planned Parenthood by protecting any organization that provides women’s health services, such as preventive care and cancer screenings, from being stripped of vital federal resources to serve America’s families.” A yes vote was a vote against defunding Planned Parenthood. The resolution failed, 183 to 245. [H.R. 3134, [Vote #504](#), 9/18/15; Democratic Leader – Motions To Recommit, [9/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted 2X to Consider Barring Federal Funding For Planned Parenthood Unless Certified No Abortions**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for: “Foxy, R-N.C., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 421) that would provide for floor consideration of the bill (HR 3134) that would bar, for one year, federal funding for Planned Parenthood and its affiliates unless they certify that they will not perform abortions during that period, and the bill (HR 3504) that would require health care practitioners to give the same level of care to an infant born alive during a failed abortion as they would give to any other infant born at the same gestational age, and would set criminal fines and penalties for not doing so.” The motion was agreed to 243-183. The rule was adopted 246-179. [CQ, [9/17/15](#); H.Res.421, Vote 502, [9/17/15](#); CQ, [9/17/15](#); H.Res.421, Vote 503, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported “Independent Investigation” of Planned Parenthood**

“00:00:15 JOHN: Sorry. Senator Danes. You’ve got to change these things every 5 to 6 years. I was wondering what your position on defunding Planned Parenthood was, Mr. Zinke. 00:00:25 ZINKE: You know, I think we need an independent investigation immediately on it. You know, from what I’ve seen it’s horrific. And, and so, we need to get the facts, quickly, yesterday. And, to me, from what I’ve seen, there’s criminal involvement, but we need to get the facts. So. And we needed to get them yesterday. I think it’s outrageous that the administrations holding on information of freedom of information act where you have a gag order on freedom of speech. So it’s, you know. I think if you watched the video, I mean it is absolutely horrific.” [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [7/31/15](#)] (AUDIO)

### **Zinke Said Planned Parenthood Story Was “Deeply Troubling”**

In July 2015, Zinke posted on Facebook: “I believe all life is precious. The recent news reports about a Planned Parenthood executive discussing the sale of unborn babies’ hearts, livers and other organs is deeply troubling. I support the Speaker’s decision to further investigate these revelations through Congressional hearings.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [7/16/15](#)]

## **WOMEN’S HEALTH SERVICES**

### **Zinke Voted Against Ensuring Bill Would Not Prevent Health Care Services from Being Provided to Women**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Sinema, D-Ariz., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would ensure that nothing in the act prohibit health care services from being provided to a woman by any institution, agency, entity, or person, so long as such services protect the health of the woman.” The motion was rejected 184-242. [CQ, [9/29/15](#), H.R. 3495, Vote 523, [9/29/15](#)]

### **...BUT Voted for Protecting Reproductive Health Choices in the Workplace**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for the adoption of the rule (H Res 231) providing for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 1732) that would prohibit EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing or implementing the currently proposed rule regarding the definition of the ‘Waters of the United States,’ the fiscal 2016 budget conference report (S Con Res 11) and the joint resolution (H J Res 43) disapproving the District of Columbia’s

Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act. The rule was adopted 242-181. [H Res 231, [Vote #181](#), 4/30/15; CQ Floor Votes, 4/30/15]

#### **Voted for Blocking Consideration Against Prohibiting Employers from Discriminating Against Employees Who Use Birth Control**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for the Woodall, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 231) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 1732) that would prohibit EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing or implementing the currently proposed rule regarding the definition of the ‘Waters of the United States,’ the fiscal 2016 budget conference report (S Con Res 11) and the joint resolution (H J Res 43) disapproving the District of Columbia’s Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act. The motion was agreed to 241-181. [H Res 231, [Vote #180](#), 4/30/15; CQ Floor Votes, 4/30/15]

#### **Voted to Consider Disapproving of a Law That Would Prohibit Employers from Discriminating Against Employees Who Use Birth Control**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for the question of whether the House should consider the rule (H Res 231) that would provide for further House floor consideration of the bill (HR 1732) that would prohibit EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing or implementing the currently proposed rule regarding the definition of the “Waters of the United States,” the fiscal 2016 budget conference report (S Con Res 11) and the joint resolution (H J Res 43) disapproving the District of Columbia’s Reproductive —Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act. The question was agreed to consider by a vote of 240-174. Note: Watson-Coleman, D-N.J., had raised a point of order that the rule would violate clause 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act, regarding unfunded mandates. [H Res 231, [Vote #179](#), 4/30/15; CQ Floor Votes, 4/30/15]

#### **Voted for Repealing DC Law Banning Discrimination Based on Contraception Usage**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for repealing the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014. “The resolution disapproves, and thereby effectively repeals, the District of Columbia’s Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014, which is intended to ensure that individuals are protected from discrimination by an employer because of the individual’s or family member’s ‘reproductive health decision’ -- including use of contraception or the planned or intended initiation or termination of a pregnancy.” The bill passed 228 to 192. [HR 596, [Vote #194](#), 4/30/15; CQ House Action Report, [4/29/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Protecting Women’s Medical Privacy**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to recommit that would prohibit any violation of the medical privacy of a woman regarding her choice of health insurance coverage, and in particular the very sensitive privacy needs of those who are victims of rape and incest. In contrast, the underlying bill goes so far as to restrict a woman’s own private funds under her health insurance coverage for abortion services. [HR 7, [Vote #44](#), 1/22/15; Democratic Leader – Motions to Recommit, [1/22/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Blocking Requirement That Legislative Text Be Posted In Accordance With House Rules**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for blocking requirement that legislative text be posted in accordance with House rules. “House Rules require a bill to be posted for 3 days so it can be read before it comes to the floor, and the Republican Leadership has made this particular rule sacrosanct above all others. However, on HR 7 the Republican Leadership filed the bill late on the night before the vote the following morning, in direct violation of this Rule and their principles. The Democratic Previous Question would eliminate the waiver of this very important Rule that provides transparency for both the public and Members who must vote on legislation.” The previous question carried, 239-183. A vote against ordering the previous question would have eliminated the waiver of the House rule. [H Res 42, [Vote #42](#), 1/22/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [1/21/15](#)]

### **Voted to Repeal Unisex Insurance Law Provisions**

In February 2009, Zinke, in a 27-23 vote, voted in favor of legislation that would repeal unisex insurance law provisions. The legislation wanted to eliminate language stating that it was “unlawful discriminatory practice” to discriminate solely on the basis of sex. The bill passed (27-23). [[SB 142](#), [2/16/09](#)]

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT**

### **Voted Against Exempting Federal Protections Against Sexual & Domestic Abuse from Added Legal Challenges**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would “recommit the bill to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would limit the provisions of the bill from affecting federal regulations concerning victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.” HR 50 itself “would expand and modify the 1995 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (PL 104-4) that requires all federal agencies to consult with the private sector when developing rules... The measure would extend judicial review of agency rules and permit a court to stay, enjoin or invalidate a rule if an agency fails to complete the required UMRA analysis or adhere to the regulatory principles.” The motion failed, 184-239. [HR 50, [Vote #63](#), 1/06/15; CQ Floor Votes, [2/04/15](#); CQ News HR 50 Coverage, [2/04/15](#)]

### **Coalition for Sensible Safeguards: “The Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act Lets Big Business Write The Rules”**

“But the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards (CSS) says the bill would give businesses special access to regulators and block hypothetical future rules without the public knowing. ‘The Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act lets big business write the rules,’ Katherine McFate, president of the Center for Effective Government and CSS co-chair, said in a statement. ‘It doesn’t improve or streamline the regulatory process, which is already plagued by hurdles and delays. This act would make it even more difficult for agencies to implement laws enacted by Congress.’” [The Hill, [1/30/15](#)]

## **EQUAL PAY**

### **Zinke Claimed to Support “Equal Pay for Equal Work”**

According to the *Billings Gazette*, “Zinke also said he supports equal pay for equal work, and that wages and job opportunities for women need to be improved.” The *Gazette* reported, “In response, his Republican opponent, Ryan Zinke, said women play an essential role in this country and he favors equal pay for equal work, and backs efforts to improve wages and job opportunities for women. [Billings Gazette, 9/20/14, 9/18/14]

### **...BUT Voted Against Motion for Equal Pay By Excluding Claims of Employment Discrimination from Bill**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against on Democratic motion to recommit with instructions HR 758. “The Democratic Motion to Recommit protects women’s right to demand equal wages, by excluding claims of employment discrimination from the underlying bill that raises new obstacles for Americans to seek remedy in the courts.” The motion to recommit failed 179 to 239. [HR 758, [Vote #500](#), 9/17/15; Democratic Motion to Recommit, HR 758, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Voted 2X to Block Consideration of the Paycheck Fairness Act**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that would end the pay gap between men and women and ensure equal pay for equal work. “The legislation would protect workers from retaliation for sharing information about their wages, require employers to explain any pay disparities among workers performing the same job, and allow employees to seek unlimited punitive damages in wage bias cases.” The previous question passed 239 to 183. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. The previous question passed 240 to 183. A vote against the previous question would have

allowed the bill to be considered [H. Res. 189, [Vote #148](#), 4/14/15; Bloomberg, [4/14/15](#); Congressional Record, [4/14/15](#); Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [4/14/15](#); H. Res. 200, [Vote #154](#), 4/15/15; Bloomberg, [4/14/15](#); Congressional Record, [4/15/15](#); Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [4/15/15](#)]

## **WOMEN IN THE MILITARY**

### **Zinke's Bill to Register Women for the Draft was Scare Tactic**

In 2016, the *Washington Post* wrote, “In the House, two Republicans have taken a different approach. The Draft America’s Daughters Act, sponsored by Rep. Duncan D. Hunter (Calif.), a Marine veteran, and Rep. Ryan Zinke (Mont.), a former Navy SEAL, would require women to register for the draft. Hunter and Zinke - who oppose opening combat jobs to women and plan on voting against their own bill - said they hope the legislation will force a larger debate over the wisdom of the Obama administration’s policies on women in combat.” [Washington Post, 2/19/16]

### **Tactic Was Used in 1970s & 1980s to Block the Equal Rights Amendment**

The *Post* noted, “The question of forcing women to register for the draft has roots in conservative policy circles and the culture battles of the 1970s and 1980s. In an effort to block the Equal Rights Amendment in Congress, conservative icon Phyllis Schlafly argued that passage of the bill would compel the federal government to force women to register for the draft. At the time, memories of the disastrous Vietnam War were fresh, and no one was in favor of forcing women into military service.” [Washington Post, 2/19/16]

### **Feminists & Military Experts Supported Women in the Draft**

The *Post* continued, “Today, the roles have reversed and the strongest support for forcing women to register for the draft comes from feminists and military experts who pressed to open up combat jobs to women who can meet the physical requirements. ‘This is a fundamental responsibility of citizenship,’ said Nora Bensahel, a scholar in residence at American University’s School of International Service. Cruz’s objection to forcing women to register for the draft implies that they are ‘second-class citizens,’ Bensahel said. ‘To exclude women from that fundamental citizenship is incredibly disturbing.’” [Washington Post, 2/19/16]

## **WAR ON WOMEN**

### **0% Rating from NARAL Pro-Choice Montana in 2011**

In 2011, two years later, NARAL Pro-Choice Montana gave Zinke a 0 percent rating. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **...BUT 65% Rating from NARAL Pro-Choice Montana**

In 2009, NARAL Pro-Choice Montana gave Zinke a 65 percent rating. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Touted His 100% Voting Record with Right for Life**

In May 2014, Zinke said “I have a 100 percent voting record with Right for Life.” Zinke said, “I’m pro-life, I have a 100 percent voting record with Right for Life. I’m the only candidate up here that ever ran and passed a pro-life bill protecting unborn victims.” [YouTube, [5/29/14](#)]

### **Received a 20% Rating from Montana Women’s Lobby**

In 2011, Zinke received a 20 percent rating from the Montana Women’s Lobby. [Project Vote Smart, [5/05/14](#)]

### **...BUT 80% Rating from Montana Women’s Lobby 2 Years Earlier**

In 2009, Zinke received an 80 percent rating from the Montana Women’s Lobby. [Project Vote Smart, [5/05/14](#)]

### **Zinke Said Marrying a Woman Showed He Didn’t Hate Women**

In January 2013, Zinke was on the Tim Constantine radio show to talk about the Department of Defense’s new policy to allow women in frontline combat positions. While there, he said that his opposition to allowing

women in frontline combat positions “doesn’t mean that I hate women, I married one.” Zinke said, “Why not just call it for what it is? There are differences between men and women, okay. That doesn’t mean that I hate women, I married one.” [YouTube, [1/28/13](#)]

#### **Voted to Require Written Permission from a Parent for a Student to Attend Sex Ed Classes**

In April 2011, Zinke voted in favor of a House bill that would require a student to receive written permission from a parent or a guardian to attend a class that involves sexual education or sexuality issues. The bill passed (26-24). [[HB 456, 4/01/11](#)]

#### **...BUT Zinke Indicated Support of Comprehensive Sexual Education Programs**

In 2008, Zinke indicated that he supported sexual education programs “that include information on abstinence, contraceptives, and HIV/STD prevention methods.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

#### **Zinke Said “Sanctity of Life Can Be Protected” By “Education and Prevention”**

In May 2014, Zinke said that the “sanctity of life can be protected by what you can make a difference on – education and prevention.” Zinke said, “My position has always been clear. Roe v. Wade is not a legislative issue. What you want to do to make termination as rare as you can through education and prevention and make sure the government doesn’t advocate or financially support termination. . . . The sanctity of life can be protected by what you can make a difference on – education and prevention. That is birth control. That is educating our youth, both male and female. on the consequences of action.” [Billings Gazette, 5/04/14]

#### **Zinke Said He Opposed Abstinence-Only Sexual Education Programs**

In 2008, Zinke indicated that he opposed abstinence-only sexual education programs. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## AGRICULTURE ISSUES

- ✓ **GMO LABELING:** He voted to override state laws and establish a voluntary national genetically engineered certification program, but news coverage made clear: “Zinke cosponsored and supported legislation that would prevent Americans from learning whether their food contains GMO ingredients.” He did all this while claiming “Montanans have a right to know what is in the food they are eating.”
- ✓ Zinke criticized the federal open-grazing plan for bison, declaring “heads will roll.”
- ✓ He opposed cutting crop insurance.
- ✓ He encouraged the USDA to specify that industrial hemp research programs were eligible for federal funds.
- ✓ He voted to repeal Country of Origin Labeling on meat.
- ✓ He voted for the Western Water & American Food Security Act, but against funding water reclamation & reuse projects.
- ✓ He voted against a resolution that encouraged Farm to School Programs. (Juneau was a leader on these programs, arguing they helped the economy, farmers, and encouraged healthy eating.)
- ✓ He voted in favor of legislation to stop the discouragement of horse slaughterhouses in Montana.

### **Zinke Criticized Federal Open-Grazing Plan for Bison, Montana Farm Bureau Opposed**

In 2016, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Rep. Ryan Zinke criticized Obama administration officials for not being informed about its own plan to allow bison to graze year-round on land previously used for cattle. At a pair of hearings this week, the Montana Republican said he was surprised that Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze were largely unaware of permit request changes by the American Prairie Reserve. The plan, which has been preliminary approved by the BLM, would allow bison to graze in areas without fences year-round. Farm groups, including the Montana Farm Bureau, have criticized the measure because cattle farmers are only allowed to have a certain number of animals graze in a given area, must have fences and are not allowed to have their animals there all year. Allowing bison to graze would take away land their animals depend on for food, they contend. ‘What’s the point of having these bureaucrats come before Congress if they don’t know a damn thing about multimillion-acre projects that they have some jurisdiction over?’ Zinke said. ‘This is a big deal, and for the BLM and DOI to not even put the time in to learn about the issue is a slap in the face to Montana.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 3/04/16]

### **Zinke Declared “Heads Will Roll. This Is Not Acceptable.”**

NewsTalkKGVO.com reported, “After the back-and-forth, Zinke slammed the “bureaucrats” at BLM and the Department of the Interior for “knowing nothing” about Bison. In a strongly worded press release Zinke said “to not even put in the time in to learn about the issue is a slap in the face to Montana. Heads will roll. This is not acceptable.” [NewsTalkKGVO.com, [3/03/16](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Amending Federal Crop Insurance Act to Repeal Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 Changes**

In December 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to repeal the changes regarding the Standard Reinsurance Agreement enacted as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.” [CQ, Accessed [12/2/15](#); H.R. 3845, Co-Sponsored 11/30/15, Introduced [10/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Cutting Crop Insurance**

In 2016, Zinke “said he was opposed to the White House’s push to cut crop insurance that is a ‘critical program’ used by Montana farmers during challenging times. Zinke also said it would unnecessarily reopen the farm bill put in place in 2014. ‘Agriculture is our biggest industry, and to destabilize Montana farmers and ranchers would be a huge mistake,’ Zinke said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/11/16]

### **Zinke Urged USDA Clarify Industrial Hemp Research Programs Eligible for Federal Funds**

“U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) today urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to clarify that industrial hemp research programs are eligible for existing federal research dollars. Wyden was among a bipartisan group of 12 senators, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.); and 37 members of the House of Representatives – including Oregon Reps. Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, Peter DeFazio and Kurt Schrader -- to write Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack about industrial hemp research.” Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Sen. Ron Wyden, Press Release, [11/20/15](#)]

### **Recall Zinke Sign in Bozeman Also Read “Divest In GMO.”**

“Over the weekend a person was promoting a conspiracy theory website known as Infowars and the recall of Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke. I spotted the signs on Main Street in front of the Co-Op while running an errand. When I drove back by the person wasn’t there so I don’t really know what has got this person irritated with the congressman. But I was able to snap a photo out the car window while waiting for the light to turn. As you can kinda see, the sign also had text in yellow that read ‘Divest in GMO.’ [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 406 Politics, [10/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Growing Jobs In Agriculture, Energy And Tourism Are Critical To Montana’s Economy And Our Nation’s Success.”**

“Between Sunday, October 11th and Saturday, October 17th, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke covered 2,000 miles and hosted or attended more than 25 events including more than a dozen town hall style meetings where members of the public were encouraged to come ask Rep. Zinke questions. [...] ‘Without a strong economy, we can’t have anything else. Growing jobs in agriculture, energy and tourism are critical to Montana’s economy and our nation’s success. That’s why I hold these public meetings: I need to hear first-hand how the issues impact the small towns in our state, and let folks know that I’m on top of it.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “the #1 Industry in Montana is Still [Agriculture].”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, stopped by the Busch Agricultural Resource center just north of Sidney Tuesday for a tour of the facility and to talk with local workers about the issues important to them. ‘It does not employ, a lot but it’s a good business,’ Zinke said. ‘Don’t overlook the little guy just because you got six guys in the shop here. [This facility] makes a difference. It supports a lot of barley. We forget the number one industry in Montana is still ag.’ [Sidney Herald, [10/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Talked with Agri-Pulse**

Zinke was interviewed by Agri-Pulse Communications, inc. and discussed Montana’s agriculture, forest reform, public lands, military readiness, being a navy seal, and energy development. [YouTube, Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc, [10/16/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Voted to Override State Laws & Establish A Voluntary National Genetically Engineered Certification Program**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, which would “require the Agriculture Department to establish a voluntary national genetically engineered (GE) food certification program under which food producers could label their product as including or not including genetically modified ingredients. The program created under the bill would pre-empt related state and local laws and prohibits mandatory labeling of GE or non-GE food.” The bill passed 275-150. [HR 1599, [Vote #462](#), 7/23/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/23/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Requiring GMO Labeling for Companies Required to Label for Foreign Countries**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would require a U.S. company or subsidiary with products labeled a containing GMOs (genetically modified organisms) in any foreign country to indicate the presence of GMOs in the equivalent product sold in the U.S.” The amendment failed, 123-303. [HR 1599, [Vote #459](#), 3/25/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/23/15](#)]

### **Opinion: “Zinke Cosponsored A Bill That Bans The Right Of States To Label GMO Foods And Preempts State Regulation Of Bioengineered Organisms.”**

“It’s been five years since Congress passed the Food Safety and Modernization Act, which was hailed as the biggest food law in decades. The law languishes in federal agencies awaiting implementation. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke cosponsored a bill that bans the right of states to label GMO foods and preempts state regulation of bioengineered organisms. The bill quickly passed out of committee in route to a U.S. House floor vote.” [Flathead Beacon, Mike Jopek Opinion, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Voted for Amendment to Ensure Tribal Sovereignty in the Safe & Accurate Food Labeling Act**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015 that would “ensure tribal sovereignty and would guarantee that the bill does not prohibit or limit the right to cultivate genetically engineered plants on or near tribal lands.” The amendment was rejected 196-227. [HR 1599, [Vote #460](#), 7/23/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/23/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment to Prohibit Foods Labeled “Natural” to Contain Genetically Engineered Plants**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015 that would “prohibit foods labeled with the term ‘natural’ to contain genetically engineered plants.” The amendment was rejected 163-262. [HR 1599, [Vote #461](#), 7/23/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/23/15](#)]

### **Headline: “House passes bill blocking states from requiring GMO labels on food.”**

“The House on Thursday passed hotly contested legislation that would keep states from issuing mandatory labeling laws for foods that contain genetically modified organisms, often called GMOs. The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, which passed 275-150, would instead create a federal standard for the voluntary labeling of foods with GMO ingredients... Opponents have pushed back against the legislation, saying it will keep consumers from knowing what’s in their food and stop FDA from crafting a national GMO-labeling solution.” [The Hill, [7/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Montanans Have A Right To Know What Is In The Food They Are Eating.”**

“Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for the bipartisan Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act (H.R. 1599) which would create a federal labeling standard to certify genetically engineered food. This will allow consumers to shop with confidence across our country and save farmers, ranchers and food packagers time and money by complying with one standard rather than a patchwork of regulations that differ from state-to-state. The program would be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and would codify Food and Drug Administration (FDA) current practice regarding for labeling requirements of genetically engineered plant ingredients in food. [...] ‘Montanans have a right to know what is in the food they are eating and

preparing for their families, which is exactly why I voted for the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act. With more folks than ever looking at the labels on their favorite foods, this law makes the important step of creating a national standard for labeling foods and allows consumers to shop with confidence,’ said Rep Zinke. ‘The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act will also protect farmers, ranchers and others in the food industry from costly and duplicative regulations levied by states and allow Montana producers to better compete nationally.’ [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [7/23/15](#)]

**Zinke: “The Safe And Accurate Food Labeling Act Will Also Protect Farmers, Ranchers... From Costly And Duplicative Regulations”**

“Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for the bipartisan Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act (H.R. 1599) which would create a federal labeling standard to certify genetically engineered food. This will allow consumers to shop with confidence across our country and save farmers, ranchers and food packagers time and money by complying with one standard rather than a patchwork of regulations that differ from state-to-state. The program would be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and would codify Food and Drug Administration (FDA) current practice regarding for labeling requirements of genetically engineered plant ingredients in food. [...] ‘Montanans have a right to know what is in the food they are eating and preparing for their families, which is exactly why I voted for the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act. With more folks than ever looking at the labels on their favorite foods, this law makes the important step of creating a national standard for labeling foods and allows consumers to shop with confidence,’ said Rep Zinke. ‘The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act will also protect farmers, ranchers and others in the food industry from costly and duplicative regulations levied by states and allow Montana producers to better compete nationally.’ [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [7/23/15](#)]

**Voted Against Changing The Title Of The Bill From “Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act” To “Deny Americans the Right to Know Act”**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015 that would change the title of the bill to the “Deny Americans the Right to Know Act.” The amendment was rejected 87-337. [HR 1599, [Vote #463](#), 7/23/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/23/15](#)]

**Gazette: “Zinke Cosponsored And Supported Legislation That Would Prevent Americans From Learning Whether Their Food Contains GMO Ingredients.”**

In July 2015, the *Billings Gazette* Editorial Board wrote: “Zinke votes to strengthen food labeling laws,’ U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke’s press release proclaimed on July 23, the day he voted for the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act (H.R. 1599). In fact, Montana’s lone U.S. House member, voted for a bill that would nullify genetically modified organism labeling laws in three states and pre-empt future efforts by any state to require that food containing GMOs be so labeled. In fact, Zinke cosponsored and supported legislation that would prevent Americans from learning whether their food contains GMO ingredients. It’s disappointing that Zinke tried to put a pro-consumer spin on his vote.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/28/15](#)]

**Gazette: “It’s Disappointing That Zinke Tried To Put A Pro-Consumer Spin On His Vote.”**

In July 2015, the *Billings Gazette* Editorial Board wrote: “Zinke votes to strengthen food labeling laws,’ U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke’s press release proclaimed on July 23, the day he voted for the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act (H.R. 1599). In fact, Montana’s lone U.S. House member, voted for a bill that would nullify genetically modified organism labeling laws in three states and pre-empt future efforts by any state to require that food containing GMOs be so labeled. In fact, Zinke cosponsored and supported legislation that would prevent Americans from learning whether their food contains GMO ingredients. It’s disappointing that Zinke tried to put a pro-consumer spin on his vote.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/28/15](#)]

**Gazette: “The GMO Labeling Vote Was Consistent With [Zinke’s] Anti-Consumer Record.”**

In July 2015, the *Billings Gazette* Editorial Board wrote: “The GMO labeling vote was consistent with his anti-consumer record: Last month, he voted to eliminate Country of Origin Labeling requirements for beef. The

World Trade Organization has ruled COOL to be unfair trade restraints against Mexican and Canadian beef. Canada has threatened trade sanctions against the United States if it continued to require beef sold at supermarkets to say what country it was born and raised in. The U.S. House agreed with the WTO and big meatpackers that American grocery shoppers don't deserve to buy beef they know was produced in the USA." [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Gazette Opposed Zinke's Statement That The Safe And Accurate Food Labeling Act Allowed "Consumers To Shop With Confidence."**

In July 2015, the *Billings Gazette* Editorial Board wrote: "So it was a welcome surprise last week to read Zinke's statement saying: 'Montanans have a right to know what is in the food they are eating and preparing for their families, which is exactly why I voted for the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act. With more folks than ever looking at the labels on their favorite foods, this law makes the important step of creating a national standard for labeling foods and allows consumers to shop with confidence.' Except, that it doesn't." [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Gazette: "[Zinke] Voted Against Transparency And Against State-Level Consumer Protection – While Also Denying Them At The Federal Level."**

In July 2015, the *Billings Gazette* Editorial Board wrote: "Most of the U.S. corn, soybeans, canola and sugar beet crops are grown from GMO seeds, which can vastly improve crop yields. GMO seeds, for example, can be Roundup resistant, so farmers can use that herbicide to kill weeds without harming the corn crop. But many people want their food to be natural and GMO free. With this bill, Zinke and 274 other representatives, including Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., said they have no right to know about GMOs. Those lawmakers voted against transparency and against state-level consumer protection – while also denying them at the federal level. According to polls, even Americans who are OK with GMO foods, tend to support disclosure. If GMO content matters to you, the only way to be sure your food is GMO free is to buy USDA certified organic groceries. Congress isn't likely to change that." [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Independent Record: "[Zinke] Reiterated His Support For Replacing COOL With A Simply 'Made In The U.S.A.' Label."**

"America's method for letting consumers know where their meat and produce comes from took a \$1 billion hit Monday from the World Trade Organization, and Montana farm groups responded angrily. [...] U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., voted to repeal COOL in June when it became clear the scheme was in trouble with the WTO. He reiterated his support for replacing COOL with a simply 'made in the U.S.A.' label." [Independent Record, [12/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Highlighted His Vote To Repeal COOL for Agriculture Products**

"Today Montana agriculture leaders applauded Congressman Ryan Zinke for voting in favor of repealing mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) for agriculture products by voting YES on H.R. 2393, the Country of Origin Labeling Amendments Act of 2015. The measure passed with overwhelming bipartisan support by a vote of 300-131. Montana Stockgrowers, Wool Growers and Pork Producers applauded Zinke's vote." [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [6/11/15](#)]

### **Voted for Repealing Country of Origin Labeling on Meat**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a bill to repeal U.S. country of origin labeling requirements for beef, pork and chicken that is sold in the United States. The bill passed by a vote of 300-131. [HR 2393, [Vote #333](#), 6/10/15; CQ Floor Votes, 6/10/15]

### **Zinke Voted for the Western Water & American Food Security Act**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: "Passage of a bill that would require that more water from Northern California be pumped south for agricultural uses in the Central Valley in times of drought, and would require the Interior and Commerce departments to approve any emergency projects or operations that would quickly

provide additional water to those users. The bill would also implement a coordinated environmental review process to expedite the environmental review of certain water projects, such as dams and water storage facilities. Additionally, the bill would modify the government evaluation process for determining whether the pumping of additional water south in California is harmful to certain fish species.” The measure passed 245-176. [CQ, [7/17/15](#); H.R. 2898, Vote 447, [7/16/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Amending Western Water & American Food Security Act**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against: “Van Hollen, D-Md., motion to recommit the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would revise the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish new thresholds for what constitutes a domestic versus foreign corporation, specifically under circumstances in which a foreign corporation has acquired properties or assets held by a domestic corporation or more than 50 percent of the stock held by such a corporation, thus preventing U.S. corporations from ‘inverting’ their corporate residence from the United States to other low tax countries.” The motion was rejected 185-244. [CQ, [7/15/15](#); H.R. 3038, Vote 440, [7/15/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Directing Feds to Work With CA to Install A Fish Screen At The Delta Cross Channel Gates**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Garamendi, D-Calif., amendment that would direct federal agencies to collaborate with the California Department of Water Resources to install a fish screen at the Delta Cross Channel Gates.” The amendment failed 182-336. [CQ, [7/17/15](#); Amdt. No. 3 to H.R. 2898, Vote 443, [7/16/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Include the Klamath Water Project in Oregon & California in Endangered Species Act Consultations**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “LaMalfa, R-Calif., amendment that would provide contractors operating at the Klamath Project in Oregon and California, if Reclamation initiates actions under the Endangered Species Act, all the ‘rights and responsibilities’ extended to applicants in the consultation process.” The amendment passed 246-172. [CQ, [7/17/15](#); Amdt. No. 7 to H.R. 2898, Vote 444, [7/16/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Funding Water Reclamation Programs & Water Reuse Projects**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment that would fund water reclamation programs and water reuse projects so that the Bureau of Reclamation can investigate additional opportunities to reclaim and reuse wastewater and naturally impaired ground and surface water.” The amendment failed 179-242. [CQ, [7/17/15](#); Amdt. No. 8 to H.R. 2898, Vote 445, [7/16/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Recommitting the Western Water & American Food Security Act**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Bera, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill back to the House Natural Resources Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment to require the Secretary to guarantee that sufficient supplies of water are allocated both for drinking and the fighting of wild fires.” The motion failed 183-239. [CQ, [7/17/15](#); H.R. 2898, Vote 446, [7/16/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Asked Director of BLM to Suspend Consideration of Merging AZ & NM Offices**

“Today, U.S. Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S. (AZ-04) released the following statement after spearheading a letter with bipartisan support from his House colleagues to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze asking him to suspend any consideration of merging the Arizona and New Mexico state offices.” Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Rep. Gosar, Press Release, [5/6/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Said He Was “Happy” with DOI Decision Not to List Greater Sage Grouse as an Endangered Species**

“Today, Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary Sally Jewell announced listing the greater sage grouse on the endangered species list is ‘unwarranted.’ While the unwarranted status of the ground-dwelling, chicken-sized bird was no surprise to Montanans who are closest to the issue, the abrupt change in position by the Obama

Administration comes after years of state and local governments and stakeholders spending tens of millions of dollars to preserve the habitat of the bird. Despite the species not being listed, the federal government is executing a massive land grab that will restrict agriculture, mining, wind farms, oil and gas development, and other natural resource development. 'I've said this from the beginning: The listing of the sage grouse as an endangered species is not warranted, and neither is another federal land grab,' said Rep Ryan Zinke. 'I'm happy to hear that the Fish and Wildlife Service is finally coming to this conclusion and respect what the scientists, conservationists, and land owners have known for years. However, I remain concerned about the federal government's role in the conservation process, specifically the withdrawal of ten million acres of land that has the potential for natural resource development. This multi-million acre land grab is aimed at shutting down Montana's energy economy. I firmly believe state-driven solutions are the best approach to create a middle ground to protect the species while ensuring energy development opportunities continue.'" [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [9/22/15](#)]

### **Pressed Former BLM Director Clark About Management of MT & Sage Grouse**

"This week in a Natural Resources hearing on sage grouse management, I pressed former BLM director Clark about DC management of Montana and other Western states. RZ: 'Other than perhaps a taxidermy or the Smithsonian Institute, is there an example of the Sage Grouse within the DC area? Living?' Clark: 'I'm not aware there are any Sage Grouse in the DC area.' RZ: 'Then why then would Washington, the bureaucracy, given there's no Sage Grouse here, why would, in your view, why would they decide what is best for Montana, the Western states, that have a deep traditional concern for wildlife management, why would the bureaucracy here think that they have a better management plan than the Western states?' Clark: 'I think it's the culture in Washington...'. It may be the culture in DC but it's not the culture in Montana. I support a state-based plan so Montana farmers, ranchers, wildlife advocates, local governments and property owners have a seat at the table to best determine how Montana manages sage grouse.'" [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [5/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed the Plan to Federally Manage Sage Grouse in Montana**

"Today the Bureau of Land Management released their draft plans to federally manage sage grouse populations in Western states, including Montana, despite the fact that many states are crafting state-based solutions to manage local bird populations. [...] "Once again the Obama Administration is undermining the authority of sovereign states to manage our own land, resources, and wildlife with one of their signature 'Washington knows best' plans," said Ryan Zinke. "In Montana alone, the BLM is flexing its bureaucratic muscle over an area nearly the size of the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts combined in order to conserve populations of a bird that they admit they don't even know what a healthy population would be. I support a state-based plan that gives local stakeholders a seat at the table. From ObamaCare to the EPA's anti-coal rules, to Waters of the U.S., it is clear the people of Montana cannot trust the Administration to act in our state's best interest. The era of Washington knows best has to end now.'" [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [5/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Bill to Prevent the Listing of Sage Grouse as Endangered Species**

In April 2015, Zinke cosponsored "a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans for the protection and recovery of sage-grouse species, and for other purposes." [CQ, Accessed [4/27/15](#); H.R. 1997, Cosponsored 4/23/15, Introduced [4/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "I Remain Concerned About The Federal Government's Role In The Conservation Process"**

"Today, Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary Sally Jewell announced listing the greater sage grouse on the endangered species list is 'unwarranted.' While the unwarranted status of the ground-dwelling, chicken-sized bird was no surprise to Montanans who are closest to the issue, the abrupt change in position by the Obama Administration comes after years of state and local governments and stakeholders spending tens of millions of dollars to preserve the habitat of the bird. Despite the species not being listed, the federal government is executing a massive land grab that will restrict agriculture, mining, wind farms, oil and gas development, and other natural resource development. 'I've said this from the beginning: The listing of the sage grouse as an

endangered species is not warranted, and neither is another federal land grab,' said Rep Ryan Zinke. 'I'm happy to hear that the Fish and Wildlife Service is finally coming to this conclusion and respect what the scientists, conservationists, and land owners have known for years. However, I remain concerned about the federal government's role in the conservation process, specifically the withdrawal of ten million acres of land that has the potential for natural resource development. This multi-million acre land grab is aimed at shutting down Montana's energy economy. I firmly believe state-driven solutions are the best approach to create a middle ground to protect the species while ensuring energy development opportunities continue.'" [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [9/22/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Cosp. Bill to Ensure the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Mexican Wolf Rule Had No Force Or Effect**

In June 2015, Zinke cosponsored: "A bill to ensure the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Mexican wolf nonessential experimental population 10(j) rule has no force or effect, and for other purposes." [CQ, Accessed [6/26/15](#); H.R. 2910, Co-sponsored 6/25/15, Introduced [6/25/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Signed Letter that Urged Interior Secretary & U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Director to De-list the Gray Wolf**

"Yesterday U.S. Representatives Cynthia Lummis (WY-At large) and Dan Newhouse (WA-04) sent a letter, along with 35 of their colleagues, to urge Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe to move forward with finalizing a June 2013 proposed rule to delist the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) nationally from the "List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)." Zinke signed the letter. [Letter to Secretary Jewell and Director Ashe, [4/28/15](#); Office of Rep. Lummis, Press Release, [4/30/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Encouraging Farm to School Programs**

In April 2011, Zinke voted against a Senate Joint Resolution that encouraged Farm to School Programs to connect school cafeterias with local farms. The resolution passed (36-13). [[SJR 19, 4/05/11](#)]

*NOTE: Juneau was a leading proponent of the programs.*

#### **Voted Against the Confidentiality of Some Information Regarding the Testing of Livestock**

In March 2011, Zinke voted against establishing the confidentiality of certain information regarding the testing of livestock. The bill passed (43-60). [[HB 294, 3/03/11](#)]

#### **Voted to Prevent the Discouragement of Horse Slaughter**

In 2009, Zinke voted in favor of house legislation that would attempt to rein in possible state court actions that might discourage the construction of a horse slaughterhouse in Montana. Zinke said, "When a horse is too old to breed, too old to ride, or too expensive to feed, a horse is disposed of." The bill passed (27-23). [[HB 418, 3/20/09](#); AP, 3/20/09]

#### **Supported Timber Harvest in Areas Requiring Thinning for Fire Prevention**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for timber harvest in areas requiring thinning for fire prevention. Zinke said, "I support a sustainable yield policy in the harvest of forest products and strongly support timber harvest in areas that require thinning for fire prevention." [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## BUDGET ISSUES - FEDERAL

- ✓ Zinke voted for the Omnibus Budget Agreement in 2015, citing the LWCF, visa reforms, funding our troops and lifting the ban on crude oil exports. However, one columnist wrote, Zinke “sold his conservative credentials for a mess of potage.”
- ✓ In September 2015, Zinke also voted for a short-term continuing resolution to prevent a government shutdown, but complained: “These short-term continuing resolutions are no way to run the government.”
- ✓ In April 2015, Zinke voted against the FY16 Republican Budget Conference Report, because of public land provisions.
- ✓ Zinke supported a balanced budget amendment.
- ✓ He supported the Ryan Budget in 2014, during the primary campaign, but criticized it as not “aggressive” enough and cuts “really aren’t deep enough.”
- ✓ He voted to require the Treasury Secretary report before Congress before the debt limit is reached.
- ✓ He opposed the budget deal in October 2015 because “restructuring Medicare... would punish rural healthcare” and cutting crop insurance. He said if Congress doesn’t pass a balanced budget, they should not get paid.
- ✓ He voted against raising the debt limit in October 2015.

### FY 2017 BUDGET

#### **Zinke Said of Obama’s Budget: “There is Nothing about this Document that Could ... be Defined as a ‘Budget’”**

In 2016, Zinke said of President Barack Obama’s budget proposal, “There is nothing about this document that could in any way be defined as a ‘budget.’ The president’s last budget proposal is as much of a failure as last seven. It breaks spending caps, raises taxes, burdens farms, ranches and small business with more regulations, and never ever balances, only adds more debt for our children to pay off... There’s a whole lot of money spent on a whole lot of nothing. The president continues to throw money to his liberal green energy donors to keep them afloat, while punishing Montana’s natural resources and the good-paying jobs they support. Here’s an idea: Let’s keep hard working Montanans afloat. Rather than taxing families and jobs to death, let’s work together to figure out how to grow the economy, balance the budget, become energy independent, and lift our entire nation up. That’s what all of the above energy policies will do, and that’s what I’m fighting for in Congress.” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/10/16]

### FY 2016 BUDGET

### **Zinke Voted for the Omnibus Because “LWCF, PILT, Lifting The Ban On Crude Oil Exports, Tax Relief,” & Defense Funds**

“The following op-ed was written by Congressman Ryan Zinke and provided to KGVO: ‘Yes; I voted for the 2,000-page spending bill which funds the government next year, known as the Omnibus. Yes; my staff and I read it. And yes; it was a difficult vote. I assure you, the easy thing to do in these situations is vote no. It’s easy to vote no. But before judgment is delivered, you deserve to hear the reasoning behind my decision. Several Montana provisions that I’ve fought for in Congress over the past 12 months were included in the bill: LWCF, PILT, lifting the ban on crude oil exports, tax relief, etc. But the most important was my Constitutional duty to ‘provide for the common defense’ at a time when this president seems hell-bent on doing everything he can to weaken our position around the globe.” [KGVO, Zinke Op-Ed, [12/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Weighed [The Vote] Against The Alternative, A Continuing Resolution, Which Would Have Underfunded The Military By More Than \$22 Billion.”**

“The following op-ed was written by Congressman Ryan Zinke and provided to KGVO: [...] I swore an oath to keep America safe, both here at home and abroad. This bill fully funds our military and helps prevent domestic attacks by Islamic terrorist who could exploit the loopholes in the visa waiver program. It is clear this president’s foreign policy is a failure, but he will not be in office forever. Congress needs to start laying the groundwork today for the next president to take over the strongest military possible and be ready to go day one. Next year Montanans will vote for a new President. Regardless of whether that president is a Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or, god-forbid, a Socialist, my job as a Congressman and former Naval Commander is to ensure our military is the strongest possible. I weighed it against the alternative, a continuing resolution, which would have underfunded the military by more than \$22 billion, leaving the Persian Gulf without an aircraft carrier for the first time since 2007. It would also cost the military about 30,000 troops across four branches and put our readiness at risk. As it stands, only a staff fraction of our brigades are combat ready.” [KGVO, Zinke Op-Ed, [12/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Understand The Argument That We Cannot Afford More Debt”**

“The following op-ed was written by Congressman Ryan Zinke and provided to KGVO: [...] I understand the argument that we cannot afford more debt, and I am adamant about fixing our nation’s finances. I support a balanced budget amendment, biennial budgeting, and denying members of Congress pay if they don’t balance the budget. I even voted against the Obama-Boehner budget earlier this year which raised the spending caps. But opponents in the Senate who claim the tax credits for Montana families, workers, farmers and ranchers are ‘too expensive’ don’t understand how hard the average Montanan works to earn their paycheck. Never once did we hear suggestions for spending cuts from them; I gladly welcome spending cuts. Let’s start with the EPA and IRS. Whether it’s stopping the medical device tax, renewing the Crow’s coal tax credit, or making the section 179 and research and development credits permanent, every single one of these tax credits means another dollar in the pockets of hard-working Montanans.” [KGVO, Zinke Op-Ed, [12/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “If The Funding Bills Had Moved Through The Senate... We Would Not Be Faced With This Artificial Funding Crisis”**

“The following op-ed was written by Congressman Ryan Zinke and provided to KGVO: [...] Congress needs to abandon the practice of creating artificial crises and rather get the work done on time. This massive bill is more than 2,000 pages. This is no way to govern. The House is far from perfect, but we passed most of the appropriations bills last summer well before the deadline, but the Senate Democrats filibustered and shut down regular order. If the funding bills had moved through the Senate in the first place, we would not be faced with this artificial funding crisis Like all massive pieces of legislation, the Omnibus contains the good, the bad and the ugly; but LWCF, visa reforms, lifting the ban on crude exports and funding our troops are far too important to Montana and our national security to vote no. Those who know me know that I say what I’ll do and do what I’ve said. When I asked for this job, I told Montanans that I would put our national security first, develop our

energy industry and conserve our public lands. That is what I said, that is what I did.” [KGVO, Zinke Op-Ed, [12/22/15](#)]

#### **Zinke: “LWCF, Visa Reforms, Funding Our Troops & Lifting The Ban On Crude Exports”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for H.R. 2029 also known as the ‘Omnibus;’ it passed by a wide bipartisan majority 316-113 with the majority of Republicans voting yes. [...] ‘Like all massive pieces of legislation, the Omnibus contains the good, the bad and the ugly; but LWCF, visa reforms, funding our troops and lifting the ban on crude exports is far too important to Montana and our national security to vote no. In addition, the bill provides much-needed tax relief, restores PILT funding, stops full implementation of ObamaCare and helps promote Montana energy. Weighed against the alternative, I made a Command decision for vote yes.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/18/15](#)]

#### **Zinke: “Opponents... Who Claim The Tax Credits... Are ‘Too Expensive’ Don’t Understand”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for H.R. 2029 also known as the ‘Omnibus;’ it passed by a wide bipartisan majority 316-113 with the majority of Republicans voting yes. [...] ‘My first duty is to keep America safe, both here at home and abroad. This bill fully funds our military and helps prevent domestic attacks by Islamic terrorist who could exploit the loopholes in the visa waiver program. It is clear this president’s foreign policy is a policy of inaction. Congress needs to start laying the groundwork today for the next president to take over the strongest military possible, and be ready to go on day one. ‘Opponents in the Senate who claim the tax credits for Montana families, workers, farmers and ranchers are ‘too expensive’ don’t understand how hard the average Montanan works to earn their paycheck. Never once did we hear suggestions for spending cuts from them; I gladly welcome spending cuts. Let’s start with the EPA and IRS. Whether it’s stopping the medical device tax, renewing the Crow’s coal tax credit, or making the section 179 and research and development credits permanent, every single one of these tax credits means another dollar in the pockets of hard-working Montanans.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/18/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Supported Cuts To The EPA And IRS**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for H.R. 2029 also known as the ‘Omnibus;’ it passed by a wide bipartisan majority 316-113 with the majority of Republicans voting yes. [...] ‘My first duty is to keep America safe, both here at home and abroad. This bill fully funds our military and helps prevent domestic attacks by Islamic terrorist who could exploit the loopholes in the visa waiver program. It is clear this president’s foreign policy is a policy of inaction. Congress needs to start laying the groundwork today for the next president to take over the strongest military possible, and be ready to go on day one. ‘Opponents in the Senate who claim the tax credits for Montana families, workers, farmers and ranchers are ‘too expensive’ don’t understand how hard the average Montanan works to earn their paycheck. Never once did we hear suggestions for spending cuts from them; I gladly welcome spending cuts. Let’s start with the EPA and IRS. Whether it’s stopping the medical device tax, renewing the Crow’s coal tax credit, or making the section 179 and research and development credits permanent, every single one of these tax credits means another dollar in the pockets of hard-working Montanans.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/18/15](#)]

#### **Zinke: “This Bill Provides Real Tax Relief... And It Opens The Door For An Overhaul Of Our Tax Code.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for and the House passed H.R. 2029, the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act (PATH Act). The measure passed with broad bipartisan support by a vote of 318-109. H.R. 2029 includes Zinke’s provision to reauthorize the Indian Coal Production Tax Credit (ICPTC) for two years. Zinke introduced ICPTC legislation in March. The PATH Act makes permanent over 20 tax relief provisions, extends for 5 years or 2 years a number of other tax relief provisions that expired at the end of calendar year 2014, provides for a 2-year moratorium on the medical device tax, and includes a number of additional tax policy changes that incentivize economic growth and stability. ‘Today’s tax relief bill was more than just a clean renewal of existing tax credits, like what has been done in the past. This bill provides real tax relief and long-term solutions, and it opens the door for an overhaul of our tax code. I urge the Senate to take

this up immediately,' said Rep. Zinke. 'Many of the tax credits we made permanent or extended provide much-needed certainty to small businesses, families, farmers and ranchers. Two important tax credits I fought hard to make permanent were Section 179 and the R&D Tax Credit. Section 179 allows businesses and farms to expense equipment, and the R&D credit will continue to incentivize Montana's growth in the science and technology sector. These efforts give more certainty to job creators, allowing them to plan ahead, create more jobs, make critical investments and do what they do best - innovate.'" [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/17/15](#)]

### **Columnist: “[Zinke] Sold His Conservative Credentials For A Mess Of Potage, Bragging About How He ‘Made History’”**

Frank Miele, managing editor of the *Daily Inter Lake* wrote: “On Friday, Dec. 18, 2015, Congress held up a white flag and surrendered its constitutional authority to make laws and to regulate spending on behalf of the United States government. [...] Apparently, that better use is ‘buying’ votes from members of Congress so that they will accept the horrible consequences of a runaway budget process in order to brag back home about what goodies they procured. Sadly, freshman Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, who has generally been a reliable vote for common sense, got caught up in the game and let himself be played by Speaker Ryan. He sold his conservative credentials for a mess of potage, bragging about how he ‘made history’ by lifting the ban on crude oil exports. Somehow, I think most Montanans would rather see him make history by standing up to a lawless president and a spendthrift Congress.” [Daily Inter Lake, Frank Miele Column, [12/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For the Omnibus Bill, Which Included Approps for FY 2016 & Extensions Of Expiring Tax Provisions**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Rogers, R-Ky., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill with an amendment that would provide \$1.15 trillion in discretionary appropriations through Sept. 30, 2016 for federal departments and agencies covered by the fiscal 2016 spending bills. Included in that total is: \$21.75 billion for Agriculture, \$55.7 billion for Commerce-Justice-Science, \$572.7 billion for Defense, \$37.2 billion for Energy-Water, \$23.2 billion for Financial Services, \$41 billion for Homeland Security, \$32.2 billion for Interior-Environment, \$162.1 billion for Labor-HHS-Education, \$4.4 billion for Legislative, \$79.9 billion Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, \$52.8 billion for State-Foreign Operations, and \$114 billion for Transportation-HUD. The measure would end the U.S. ban on crude oil exports and would reauthorize health care and victim compensation programs for 9/11 first-responders.” The motion was agreed to by a 316-113 vote. [CQ, [12/18/15](#); H.R. 2029, Vote 705, [12/18/15](#)]

### **\$1.8 Trillion Package Of Spending Bills And Tax Breaks Increased Both Defense And Nondefense Spending About Sequestration Caps**

“The Senate voted overwhelmingly Friday in favor a \$1.8 trillion package of spending bills and tax breaks, sending the legislation to President Obama’s desk for his signature. The 65-33 vote effectively wraps up the congressional session for the year, with the House and Senate adjourning for the holiday recess. [...] The legislation increases defense and nondefense spending above the caps set by the 2011 Budget Control Act, reflecting a budget deal reached by Obama and congressional leaders earlier this year.” [The Hill, [12/18/15](#)]

### **Placed 2-Year Moratorium On The ACA’s “Cadillac Tax” And The Medical Device Tax, And Froze The Premium Tax On Health Insurers For a Year**

“The Senate voted overwhelmingly Friday in favor a \$1.8 trillion package of spending bills and tax breaks, sending the legislation to President Obama’s desk for his signature. [...] It places a two-year moratorium on two key pieces of ObamaCare: the ‘Cadillac tax’ on expensive health plans and the medical device tax. It also freezes the premium tax on health insurers for one year. In total, it reduces revenue for the landmark healthcare reform law by \$35 billion. The administration opposed postponing the Cadillac tax, which not only funds ObamaCare but is supposed to serve as an important incentive for curbing healthcare costs, but won several policy victories in exchange.” [The Hill, [12/18/15](#)]

### **Made Permanent The Expansions Of The Child Tax Credit, The Earned Income Tax Credit, And The American Opportunity Tax Credit, From The 2009 Stimulus**

“The Senate voted overwhelmingly Friday in favor a \$1.8 trillion package of spending bills and tax breaks, sending the legislation to President Obama’s desk for his signature. [...] The administration opposed postponing the Cadillac tax, which not only funds ObamaCare but is supposed to serve as an important incentive for curbing healthcare costs, but won several policy victories in exchange. The bill will make permanent three core elements of Obama’s 2009 fiscal stimulus: expansions of the Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the American Opportunity Tax Credit for college tuition.” [The Hill, [12/18/15](#)]

### **Made Permanent Several Business Tax Cuts, Including R&D Tax Credit And Section 179 Small-Business Expensing Deduction**

“The Senate voted overwhelmingly Friday in favor a \$1.8 trillion package of spending bills and tax breaks, sending the legislation to President Obama’s desk for his signature. [...] Republicans secured several permanent tax breaks for the business community, with the research and development tax credit and the Section 179 small-business expensing deduction among the biggest wins.” [The Hill, [12/18/15](#)]

### **The Package Lifted The Decades-Old Ban On Oil Exports, And Extended For Five Years Tax Breaks On Wind And Solar**

“The Senate voted overwhelmingly Friday in favor a \$1.8 trillion package of spending bills and tax breaks, sending the legislation to President Obama’s desk for his signature. [...] In other big concession to the GOP, the legislation lifts the decades-old ban on oil exports, which could boost domestic oil production by as much as 500,000 barrels a day. In return, Democrats gained five-year extensions of wind and solar tax breaks. The legislation extends the 30-percent solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and the credit for solar-powered energy-efficient properties for three years, phasing it down in the final two. It extends the wind protection tax credit for two years before a three-year phase-down, ending in 2022.” [The Hill, [12/18/15](#)]

### **Blocked The SEC from Requiring Corporations to Disclose Their Political Giving, & Blocked the IRS from Issuing New Rules for 501(c)4 Groups**

“The Senate voted overwhelmingly Friday in favor a \$1.8 trillion package of spending bills and tax breaks, sending the legislation to President Obama’s desk for his signature. [...] The legislation, however, does include two riders blocking the administration from moving ahead with two key campaign finance regulations. It stops the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring corporations to disclose their political giving and the IRS from issuing new rules governing the activity of 501(c)4 social welfare advocacy groups.” [The Hill, [12/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported The Omnibus**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for H.R. 2029 also known as the ‘Omnibus;’ it passed by a wide bipartisan majority 316-113 with the majority of Republicans voting yes. This bill included critical Montana provisions like lifting the decades old ban on crude oil exports, reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), funding Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), and fully funding our national defense while reforming the broken visa waiver program. Yesterday, Zinke voted for a comprehensive tax package which included renewing the Indian Coal Production Tax Credit, the research and development tax credit, and the Section 179 tax credit on equipment. The tax package and the Omnibus will now be voted on as one bill in the Senate. (Rep. Zinke’s press release on the tax package can be found at the bottom of this press release.)” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke’s Office Said The Spending Bill Was Expected To Be Voted On 72 Hours After It Was Introduced**

“Tucked inside the omnibus bill now wending its way through Congress is the temporary reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which members of Montana’s congressional delegation fought to keep alive when it expired nearly two months ago. A \$1.1 trillion spending bill is before Congress to fund the government for the 2016 budget year and extend \$680 billion in tax cuts for individuals and businesses. The

spending bill is expected to be voted on by Friday, said Heather Swift, spokeswoman for Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., adding that lawmakers have fewer than 72 hours to review the bill.” [Great Falls Tribune, [12/16/15](#)]

### Zinke Criticized Lack of Time to Review Spending Bill



**Ryan Zinke** @RepRyanZinke · 16 Dec 2015

After 2 short term CRs we have a 2000 pg spending bill & less than 72 hrs to read it. This is not how to govern.  
[#RestoreRegularOrder](#) [#mtpol](#)

[Twitter, @RepRyanZinke, 12/16/15]

### Zinke: “I’m Glad ...Included Some Form of an LWCF Reauthorization & ...Lifting the Ban on Crude Oil Exports.”

In December 2015, Zinke posted on Facebook: “I’m glad Congress came to their senses and included some form of an LWCF reauthorization and included lifting the ban on crude oil exports, both of these issues I’ve spent a lot of time championing in D.C. because they are important to Montana. But there are a lot of important things that weren’t included, like forest management and regulatory reform. There are more than 2,000 pages of the bill that still need to be looked at. The immediate takeaway is, this is no way to govern a nation. We received the text of the bill in the middle of the night with less than 72 hours to read it before votes. The House is far from perfect but we passed most of the appropriations bills last summer well before the deadline, but the Senate Democrats filibustered the bills and shut down the appropriations process. If the funding bills had moved through the Senate in the first place we would not be faced with this artificial funding crisis.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [12/16/15](#)]

### Zinke Voted to End Debate on Trade Enforcement & CR

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Cole, R-Okla., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 560) that would provide for House floor consideration of the conference report to accompany HR 644, the bill that would establish the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), implement an automated system for export and import processing, increase funding for trade agreement enforcement and intellectual property protection, and permanently ban taxation on Internet access, and Senate amendments to HR 2250, the five-day continuing resolution for FY 2016.” The motion passed 236-177. [CQ, [12/11/15](#), H.Res.560, Vote 690, [12/11/15](#)]

### Zinke Voted to Move Forward 5-Day FY2016 Continuing Resolution & Bill to Fund U.S. Customs & Border Protection

In December 2011, Zinke voted for a: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 560) that would provide for House floor consideration of the conference report to accompany HR 644, the bill that would establish the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), implement an automated system for export and import processing, increase funding for trade agreement enforcement and intellectual property protection, and permanently ban taxation on Internet access, and Senate amendments to HR 2250, the five-day continuing resolution for FY 2016.” The motion passed by 236-174. [CQ, [12/11/15](#), H.Res.560, Vote 691, [12/11/15](#)]

### **Bill Averted Government Shutdown Until 12/16**

“The House cleared legislation on Friday to avert a government shutdown hours before a midnight deadline and as top congressional leaders pressed toward closing a deal on a long-term spending bill. Congress now has until Dec. 16 to either pass a yearlong spending package or another stopgap bill to avoid a shutdown. President Obama is expected to sign the bill, which passed by voice vote, before midnight. The Senate approved the measure by voice vote before adjourning for the weekend on Thursday. House GOP aides said Friday that the timing for passage of the larger spending deal, known as an omnibus, was still fluid. The goal is to post the text of the legislation by Monday, but slow negotiations could push that to Tuesday.” [The Hill, [12/11/15](#)]

### **Zinke Compared the Budget Deal to the ACA Because He Received It 24 Hours Before the Vote**

In October 2015, Zinke tweeted: “Just received the 144 pg #budgetdeal with only 24 hours until votes. I think we all remember “pass the bill to find out what’s in it” #mtpol.” [Twitter, @RepRyanZinke, [10/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke’s Office Claimed Republicans Had “Done the Hard Work” to Balance the Budget Only to Be Blocked by Dems**

“Contacted by *The Gazette* a spokesperson for U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., indicated Zinke did not prefer unconditioned approval of a debt ceiling increase. ‘Congressman Zinke is dedicated to paying down our nation’s nearly \$20 trillion debt that was racked up from years of deficit spending under both parties,’ said Heather Swift, a Zinke spokesperson. ‘Rep. Zinke realizes that the status quo is not sustainable, and that a debt ceiling increase needs to be accompanied by a real plan to get our nation out of the fiscal hole that we are in. ‘House and Senate Republicans have repeatedly done the hard work to create plans that balance our budget only to be blocked by the administration and Democrats in Congress who refuse to confront the problem.’” [Montana Standard, [10/21/15](#)]

### **Voted for Short-Term CR to Prevent Government Shutdown**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would continue funding the government through Dec. 11, 2015 at an annualized rate of \$1,017 trillion, the top-line post-sequester discretionary spending level for FY 2016 set by the Budget Control Act. It also would fund for Overseas Contingency Operations at a rate of \$74.8 billion, roughly equal to the FY 2015 level. Under the bill, most programs would be funded at a rate that is 0.21 percent less than their FY 2015 funding level, although the measure would include increases for certain activities including \$700 million in emergency funding for fighting fire in western states; it would give the VA budget flexibility in constructing a facility in Denver, and would not defund Planned Parenthood. Further, the measure would extend through Dec. 11 the ban on state taxation of Internet access and the E-Verify employment verification system. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 277-151. [HR 719, [Vote #528](#), 9/30/15; CQ Floor Votes, [9/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “These Short-Term Continuing Resolutions Are No Way To Run The Government.”**

“Today Rep. Ryan Zinke voted for the continuing resolution to keep the government funded through December 11, 2015. The bill passed the Senate and the House and will now go to the President’s desk. ‘While this budget bill is far from perfect, it keeps the federal government open for the people of Montana—and that’s my main responsibility to make government work for Montana,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘Over the next two months, I’ll be pushing House leadership to reauthorize the LWCF, reduce government spending and pay down the national debt. These short-term Continuing Resolutions are no way to run the government, so I urge Harry Reid and Senate Democrats to quit playing games, stop the manufactured crisis, and take up the funding bills the House has already sent to the Senate so we don’t get in this situation over and over again.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [9/30/15](#)]

### **Voted for Allowing GOP to Fast-Track Stopgap Spending Bill**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for consideration of an amendment to H.Res.420. “CR Could be Fast-Tracked Under Rule Passed by House ... The House Thursday quietly granted itself a method for speeding consideration of legislation after the papal visit next week, presumably for a must-pass stopgap spending bill.

The chamber approved an amendment to a rule (H Res 420) that waives the requirement that two-thirds of lawmakers vote to allow the House Rules Committee to bring a report to the floor the same day it is advanced out of the panel.” The amendment passed 237 to 187. [H.Res. 420, [Vote #498](#), 9/17/15; CQ News, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Provide \$1.2B In House Operations, \$591M Library of Congress, \$522M for GAO, \$369M Capitol Police**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would provide \$3.3 billion for legislative branch operations, excluding Senate operations, in fiscal 2016. The total would include \$1.2 billion for House operations, \$591 million in net appropriations for the Library of Congress, \$522 million for the Government Accountability Office, \$492 million for the Architect of the Capitol and \$369 million for the Capitol Police. As amended, the bill would provide no funding for the Open World Leadership Center.” The motion was passed by a 357-67 vote. [CQ, [5/19/15](#); H.R. 2250, Vote 247, [5/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Cut By 1% All Accounts In The FY2016 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill Except For The Capitol Police, Etc.**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Blackburn, R-Tenn., amendment that would cut funding under the bill by one percent for all accounts except for the Capitol Police, the Sergeant at Arms, and the Architect of the Capitol’s Capitol Police buildings, grounds and security account.” The motion was rejected by a 172-250 vote. [CQ, [5/19/15](#); H.Amdt.241 to H.R. 2250, Vote 246, [5/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Cut Funding for Open World Leadership Center from \$5.7M to 0**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Ratcliffe, R-Texas, amendment that would reduce funding for the Open World Leadership Center by \$5.7 million, to zero, and would apply that amount to the spending reduction account.” The motion was adopted by a 224-199 vote. [CQ, [5/19/15](#); H.Amdt.239 to H.R. 2250, Vote 245, [5/19/15](#)]

### **Voted Against FY16 GOP Budget Conference Report**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a conference report outlining the Republican Congressional budget for fiscal year 2016 and budget levels for 2017 through 2025. “House and Senate Republicans agreed on a unified budget plan Wednesday that would allow them to bypass Democrats and send President Barack Obama legislation to repeal or revise his landmark health-care law. The budget proposal spells out the Republican Party’s priorities by calling for \$5.3 trillion in spending cuts to reach balance in nine years.” An agreement to pass the Conference Report passed 226 to 197. [S CON RES 11, [Vote #183](#); On Agreeing to the Conference Report, 4/30/15; Bloomberg, [4/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Believed In Repealing ACA & Reducing The Budget, “But Public Lands Are Non-Negotiable.”**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, broke from his party and voted no Thursday evening on a House budget resolution that includes an amendment that some say could result in the sale of federally owned lands. [...] Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift said the land amendment was included in an up or down vote on the entire budget resolution. Zinke strongly believes in repealing Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, and reducing the budget, she said, ‘But public lands are non-negotiable.’ [Great Falls Tribune, [5/1/15](#)]

### **Called For \$4.1T In Reductions To Entitlement Programs While War Funding Totaled \$96B**

“Of this, \$4.1 trillion in reductions would come from programs including entitlements like Medicare. Discretionary spending in 2016 would be limited to \$1.016 trillion, while war funding would total \$96 billion, far above Obama’s request.” [Bloomberg, [4/29/15](#)]

### **Conference Report Reduced Funding For Pell Grants, Low-Income Housing Assistance Programs, And Food Stamp Program**

“The budget slashes domestic discretionary spending by trimming away at several major priorities for Democrats. The final bill includes a reduction in funding for federal Pell Grants and housing programs for low-

income earners, and cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps.” [Washington Post, [4/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Move VA, Energy & Water Appropriations Bills**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 223) that would provide for House floor consideration of the fiscal 2016 military construction and veterans affairs bill (HR 2029) and for consideration of the fiscal 2016 energy and water development bill (HR 2028). The rule also would ‘deem’ as effective for House budget enforcement purposes the discretionary spending allocations in the fiscal 2016 budget resolution (H Con Res 27) that was adopted by the House in March.” The motion was adopted by a vote of 240-186. [CQ, [4/29/15](#); H. Res. 223, Vote 176, [4/29/15](#)]

### **Voted Against FY16 Dem. Alt. Budget - Invested in Education, Healthcare More Affordable, & Medicare More Efficient**

In March 2015, Zinke voted against the Democratic alternative budget that “proposed more investment in education and infrastructure, new taxes on the wealthiest Americans, and several pet ideas including a higher minimum wage, paid sick leave, expanded early childhood education and a ban on tax breaks for executives unless they increase their employees’ wages.” The amendment failed 160 to 264. [H Con Res 27, [Vote #139](#), 3/25/15; RealClearPolitics, [3/23/15](#)]

### **Increased Funding of Head Start, Universal Preschool, & College Affordability**

“On education, the Democratic budget would increase investments in Head Start, which provides early childhood education to low-income children, as well as fund President Obama’s proposal for universal preschool for children. It would also increase funding aimed at making college more affordable.” [RealClearPolitics, [3/23/15](#)]

### **Promoted Obamacare & Made Medicare More Efficient**

“While Republicans’ budget fully repeals Obamacare, turns Medicare into a voucher program and cuts funding to Medicaid, the Democratic budget promotes Obamacare and maintains Medicare while promoting more efficiency, Van Hollen said.” [RealClearPolitics, [3/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for Consideration of FY 2016 Budget Resolution**

On March 24, 2015, Zinke voted in favor of a: “motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 163) that would provide for House floor consideration of the fiscal 2016 budget resolution.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 238-180. [CQ, [3/24/15](#); H. Con Res 27, Vote 132, [3/24/15](#)]

### **Voted Against FY16 Rep. Study Committee Budget - Balanced In 6 Yrs, Cut Retirement, & Balanced Budget Amendment**

In March 2015, Zinke voted against the Republican Study Committee budget that would cut spending by \$7.1 trillion over 10 years. “A conservative budget released by the House Republican Study Committee (RSC) on Monday would balance in five years by cutting \$7.1 trillion in spending over the next decade. The cuts are much more than the \$5.5 trillion in proposed cuts included in the main House GOP blueprint unveiled last week by Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price (R-Ga.). The RSC budget, prepared by RSC and Budget Committee member Marlin Stutzman (R-Ind.), would increase spending for the Pentagon.” The amendment failed 132 to 294. [H Con Res 27, [Vote #138](#), 3/25/15; The Hill, [3/23/15](#)]

### **RSC Budget Would Balance In 5 Yrs By Cutting \$7.1T in Spending Over 10 Yrs & Repealing Obamacare**

On March 25, 2015, Zinke voted against a: “substitute amendment that would provide for \$ 2.804 trillion in new budget authority in fiscal 2016, not including off-budget accounts. The substitute would call for reducing spending by \$7.1 trillion over 10 years compared to the Congressional Budget Office baseline. The proposal

would call for capping discretionary spending at \$975 billion in fiscal 2016, freezing it for two years, and then allowing it to grow with inflation. It would call for setting discretionary defense spending at \$570 billion, non-defense discretionary spending at \$405 billion and allowing for \$58 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations. The measure would call for, after fiscal 2019, OCO spending being incorporated into (non-emergency) discretionary defense spending. The proposal would call for repeal of the 2010 health care overhaul, converting Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program into block grant programs and transitioning Medicare to a premium-support system. It would propose changing the inflationary index for Social Security benefits to "chained" CPI for all government programs and gradually increases eligibility to age 70 for Social Security. It also would propose converting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program into a block grant program and changing it to a discretionary program. The amendment would outline guidance for a tax overhaul, including stating that taxes should be revenue neutral based on dynamic scoring and that the alternative minimum tax be repealed. It also would propose that federal funding for transportation be limited to core federal duties, such as the interstate highway system." The amendment was rejected by a vote of 132-294. [CQ, [3/25/15](#); H. Con Res 27, Vote 138, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Would Cut FY16 Nondefense Discretionary Spending By \$88B Below Sequestration Levels**

"The RSC blueprint would lower nondefense discretionary spending for domestic programs next year to \$405 billion, \$88 billion below the baseline set by the 2011 deal. Altogether, discretionary spending next year would total \$975 billion under the RSC's budget, much lower than the \$1.018 trillion top-line number established by the 2011 law. Over the 10-year window, the RSC budget would cut nondefense spending by \$1.3 trillion and increase defense spending by \$435 billion." [The Hill, [3/23/15](#)]

### **RSC Proposed "Aggressive" Budget That Would Balance In 6 Yrs**

"Conservative members of the House Republican caucus outbid their party's official budget Monday, offering a plan to cut planned government spending by more than \$7.1 trillion and balance the budget in just six years. The aggressive plan to cut spending from all areas of government and erase deficits was introduced by the Republican Study Committee, a group of congressmen organized to push policy to the right." [Washington Examiner, 3/23/15]

### **RSC Budget Balanced By "Cutting More Deeply Into Federal Healthcare & Retirement Programs"**

"The Republican Study Committee on Monday unveiled its plan to cut spending by \$7.1 trillion over 10 years, reaching a surplus in six years by cutting more deeply into federal healthcare and retirement programs as well as domestic agency budgets." [Reuters, [3/23/15](#)]

### **RSC Budget Called For Balanced Budget Amendment To The Constitution**

"It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should pass a joint resolution incorporating the provisions set forth in subsection (b), and send such joint resolution to the States for their approval, to amend the Constitution of the United States to require an annual balanced budget." [RSC Budget Proposal, [3/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Congressional Black Caucus Budget**

On March 25, 2015, Zinke voted for a: "substitute amendment that would provide for \$3.491 trillion in new budget authority in fiscal 2016, not including off-budget accounts. The substitute would call for an additional \$500 billion over the first three years for infrastructure and jobs programs. It also would call for approximately \$300 billion over ten years to increase funding for anti-poverty programs, such as the Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program, and would recommend raising the federal minimum wage. The proposal would assume repeal of the sequester. It would recommend policy changes intended to generate additional revenue, including adding a public option to the health insurance exchanges created by the 2010 health care overhaul, passing a comprehensive immigration overhaul and ending spending from the Defense Department's Overseas Contingency Operations account. The substitute would propose calculating Social Security cost-of-living adjustments using the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly. The plan would outline a number of revenue-raising options totaling \$5.6 trillion, including limiting the corporate debt interest deduction to 25% from the

current 35%, and making it an after-tax credit.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 120-306. [CQ, [3/25/15](#); H. Con Res 27, Vote 137, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Congressional Progressive Caucus Budget**

On March 25, 2015, Zinke voted against a: “substitute amendment that would provide for \$3.7 trillion in new budget authority in fiscal 2016, not including off-budget accounts. The plan would assume repeal of the sequester. It would call for increasing near-term borrowing in order to restore full employment, raising overall spending by \$1.3 trillion over 10 years and increasing revenues by \$6.9 trillion over that period through a variety of policies that would increase taxes for corporations and high-income individuals. It would call for increasing spending on a variety of workforce initiatives, social programs and other activities, including K-12 schools and teacher support and public works jobs programs to aid distressed communities. It would recommend restoring federal unemployment benefits to a 99-week maximum through 2017 and would call for \$135 billion to be used to permanently address the Medicare reimbursement rate issue known as the ‘doc fix.’ The substitute would call for increasing the progressivity of the individual income tax code by adding five higher marginal tax rates, eliminating tax deferrals owed on U.S.-foreign controlled companies and imposing a financial transactions tax. It would recommend creation of a public insurance option to be sold within the health insurance exchanges and propose allowing Medicare to negotiate rates for prescription drugs and services. It also would call for cuts to non-emergency Defense Department spending and elimination of funding for Overseas Contingency Operations after fiscal 2016. In addition, the substitute would call for implementation of a comprehensive immigration overhaul, including a pathway to citizenship, transparency in national security budgets and the public financing of campaigns.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 96-330. [CQ, [3/25/15](#); H. Con Res 27, Vote 136, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Democratic Substitute Budget - Boost Wages for Middle-Incomes, Strip Tax Deductions for Wealthy CEOs**

On March 25, 2015, Zinke voted against a: “substitute amendment that would provide for \$3.211 trillion in new budget authority for fiscal 2016, not including off-budget accounts. The proposal would call for bringing non-defense discretionary spending up to pre-sequester levels for 2016 and adding the same amount of additional defense funding, providing funding for the president’s early childhood initiative to provide access to preschool, fully funding the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, and it would assume funding of the president’s proposed six-year \$478 billion surface transportation reauthorization. It would propose a deficit-neutral reserve fund to implement a tax overhaul that would include provisions like expanding the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. It also would propose extending so-called ‘tax extenders’ as long as they are offset. The Democratic budget would assume an increase in the federal minimum wage, enactment of a comprehensive immigration overhaul and overhaul of the unemployment compensation program. The proposal would assume full implementation of the 2010 health care overhaul and would accommodate deficit-neutral legislation to permanently address the Medicare reimbursement rate issue known as the “doc fix.” On taxes, the plan would accommodate an expansion of tax incentives that encourage low-income and middle-income taxpayers to attend college and save for retirement. It would call on Congress to raise revenue by closing loopholes and ending tax breaks for special interests and the very wealthy.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 160-264. [CQ, [3/25/15](#), H. Con Res 27, Vote 139, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Voted For FY16 Budget Resolution Repealing ACA, Slash Pell Grants And Alter Medicare**

In March 2015, Zinke voted for the FY16 Republican House budget that would repeal the Affordable Care Act, slash Pell grants and alter Medicare. “It also includes parliamentary language, called reconciliation that orders House committees to draft legislation repealing the Affordable Care Act. Under budget rules, that reconciliation repeal bill cannot be filibustered in the Senate and would need only a majority vote to pass. The budget would turn Medicaid into block grants to the states, cutting health care spending for the poor by \$900 billion. The food stamp program would also be turned into block grants and cut by hundreds of billions of dollars. Special education, Pell Grants, job training and housing assistance would all be cut. Medicare would transition to a

system where future seniors would be encouraged to use government-funded vouchers to purchase insurance in the private market.” The resolution passed 228 to 199. [H. Con Res. 27, [Vote #142](#), 3/25/15; New York Times, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said There Were Only 37 Members That Voted Against The House Budget**

Zinke: “It’s fixable, Washington, D.C. is fixable. As a result we passed a budget. The budget was bipartisan, there was only 37 individuals out of 435 that voted against it. It balanced in 10 years, 3 trillion less than the president’s budget, we fully funded defense, and no new taxes. So the house did our job, now it’s over to the senate and hopefully they will do their job.” [KPAX, [4/3/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Voted for FY16 Budget Amendment Repealing ACA, Slash Pell Grants & Alter Medicare**

In March 2015, Zinke voted for a budget alternative known as Price amendment #2 offered as an amendment on the floor that would repeal the Affordable Care Act, slash Pell grants and alter Medicare while requiring no offsets for increased OCO defense spending. “Tom Price, R-Ga., also submitted an amended version that included increased defense funding without requiring cuts in other areas to offset the spending. Price’s plan increased funding to the Overseas Contingency Operations Fund by \$2 billion over the committee plan, to \$96 billion, and requires no offsets. The version that passed out of committee would have required offsets over \$73.5 billion in the OCO fund, which pays for wars and other overseas activities and is not subject to sequester caps.” The resolution passed 219 to 208. [H. Con Res. 27, [Vote #141](#), 3/25/15; US News and World Report, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Cosp. Bill to Establish Biennial Budgets for the U.S.**

In March 2015, Zinke cosponsored “a bill to establish biennial budgets for the United States Government.” [CQ, accessed [3/27/15](#); H.R. 1610, Cosponsored 3/25/15, Introduced [3/25/15](#)]

## **BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT**

### **Zinke Cosp. Balanced Budget Amds to Constitution**

In June 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.” [CQ, Accessed [6/26/15](#); H.J. Res. 55, Co-sponsored 6/25/15, Introduced [5/20/15](#); CQ, Accessed [7/29/15](#); H.J. Res 2, Co-sponsored 7/27/15, Introduced 1/6/14]

### **Zinke Cosp. Compact on Balanced Budget Amdt, Adding the Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution**

In March 2015, Zinke cosponsored a concurrent resolution effectuating the compact for a balanced budget. [H.Con. Res. 26, Cosponsored 3/19/15, Introduced, [3/19/15](#)]

### **Voted to Urge Congress to Support a Balanced Budget Amendment**

In February 2011, Zinke voted in favor of a Senate Joint Resolution that urged the U.S. Congress to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced federal budget, except in times of war. The resolution passed (28-22). [[SJR 4](#), [2/21/11](#)]

## **BUDGET COMMENTARY**

### **Zinke Said We Should Focus on Balancing the Budget for the Sake of the Military**

[00:01:27] Zinke said, “I think we should focus on balancing our budget, because you can’t have a prosperous economy with the debt load we have. And if you don’t have a prosperous economy than you can’t afford a strong and healthy military. So, they are tied together.” [YouTube, One America News Network, [3/25/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **SUPPORTED RYAN BUDGET**

### **Zinke Defended Ryan Budget in GOP Primary Debate**

In May 2014, at the GOP debate, Ryan Zinke stated: “You know, I don’t know how many of you have read Congressman Ryan’s budget. Actually, it balances the budget in ten years. This is one of the reasons why I’m an optimist. There are good people in Congress. It [Ryan budget] balances in ten years. It’s not two years, and it’s not as aggressive as some would like, but it’s a framework, and it does address the non-discretionary and discretionary [spending].” [US Congressional GO Debate, [5/28/14](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Ryan Budget, But Not “Aggressive” Enough**

In 2014, Zinke said he supported the Ryan budget calling it “a reasonable framework going forward.” “It balances the budget in 10 years,” he said. “It wasn’t quite as aggressive as I would like. At last I think there is a Republican vision on the deficit that I think has some clarity to it,” said Zinke. [Billings Gazette, [4/25/14](#)]

### **Ryan’s Budget “Wasn’t Quite As Aggressive as I Would Like”**

In April 2014, Zinke said that the House Republican budget “wasn’t quite as aggressive as I would like.” Zinke said, “It wasn’t quite as aggressive as I would like. At last I think there is a Republican vision on the deficit that I think has some clarity to it.” [Montana Standard, 4/25/14]

### **Ryan’s Budget Was “An Important Framework to... Get Our Economy Moving”**

In April 2014, Zinke wrote that the House Republican budget “an important framework to reduce big government and get our economy moving again.” Zinke wrote, “I graduated with an MBA, while serving our nation. Looking at the GOP budget, it sets a reasonable goal for balancing the budget in ten years. It’s also an important framework to reduce big government and get our economy moving again; however we need to do more to ensure that we reduce this Administration’s reckless spending.” [Facebook, [4/02/14](#)]

### **Said Ryan Budget Cuts “Really Aren’t Deep Enough”**

In December 2013, on the *Voices of Montana* radio program, Zinke said that “he’ll give [Paul] Ryan a kudos” but that “the [budget] cuts really aren’t deep enough to matter,” when discussing the Murray-Ryan funding bill. Zinke said, “Well, no, I think, I think, you know, we should all look at what’s happening in D.C., and you know, the budget’s an importance, you know, there’s some positive on it, some positive, they had an agreement, although I think the agreement falls short of the objective, but at least we had an agreement, I mean so something is moving in Washington, and I’ll give Ryan a kudos on that one, but I just don’t think that the cuts, you really can’t take them seriously, because the cuts really aren’t deep enough to matter. Not, when you’re talking a \$17 trillion budget.” [Voices of Montana, 12/11/13]

### **Implied that the Cuts Paul Ryan Agreed to Were Not Large Enough**

In January 2014, speaking at Hometown Helena, Zinke implied that the cuts that Paul Ryan agreed to were not big enough. Zinke said, “I’ve spent the last couple months talking to key industry leaders around the country, that have a vested interest in Montana. And the conclusion is this: we need to get government out of business. The budget was, the great compromise, between Ryan and Murray, \$23 billion, over ten years, was the cut. That’s not a cut. Sequestration, whether you agreed with it or not, that’s \$85 billion.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

### **Zinke’s SOFA Said “Paul Ryan has the Fiscal Skills that Will Turn Our Economy Around”**

In 2012, after the announcement of Paul Ryan as Romney’s running mate, the spokesman for Special Operations for America said that “Paul Ryan has the fiscal skills that will turn our economy around.” SOFA’s spokesperson said, “We believe Paul Ryan has the fiscal skills that will turn our economy around – America’s weak economic situation is a threat to our national security. We are confident that a Romney-Ryan administration will ensure America’s military is not gutted recklessly for political expediency and will remain the world’s pre-eminent power. If cuts need to be made, they will be made in a calculated and strategically planned process; not just throwing a huge figure on the wall, [as] is the case of sequestration.” [Politico, 8/13/12]

## **Zinke Cosp. Amendment to the Federal Crop Insurance Act to Repeal Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 Changes**

In December 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to repeal the changes regarding the Standard Reinsurance Agreement enacted as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.” [CQ, Accessed [12/2/15](#); H.R. 3845, Co-Sponsored 11/30/15, Introduced [10/28/15](#)]

## **NATIONAL DEBT & DEBT CEILING**

### **Zinke Voted to Require Treasury Secretary Report Before Congress 21-60 Days Before Debt Limit Reached**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would require the Treasury secretary to appear before Congress between 21 and 60 days before the statutory debt limit is expected to be reached and present a report on the state of the public debt. The report would need to include the historic, current and projected future debt levels, drivers and composition of future debt, and how debt obligations will be met if the debt limit is raised. The secretary also would need to submit a statement of intent explaining the president’s proposals to reduce public debt, the impact that a debt limit increase would have on future government spending, as well as projections of fiscal health and the sustainability of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. As amended, the bill also would require reporting on the historical levels of federal revenue. Also as amended, the bill would require an explanation of the president’s plan, for each week that the debt limit is reached, for disclosing through the Treasury Department’s website the extraordinary measures being used to avoid default on obligations, their dollar amounts and when they are expected to be exhausted.: the bill passed 267-151. [CQ, [2/11/16](#); H.R. 3442, Vote 76, [2/11/16](#)]

### **WH Strongly Opposed “Needless, Redundant Burdens” on the Treasury Dept.**

“The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 3442, the Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2015, which would impose needless, redundant burdens on the U.S. Department of the Treasury in the event that the Congress allows the Nation to come close to reaching the statutory debt limit.” [Executive Office of the President Office of Management and Budget, Statement of Administration Policy, [2/9/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring the Inclusion of the Negative Consequences**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Kelly, D-Ill., amendment that would require the Treasury secretary’s debt report to include an economic forecast of the negative consequences of not raising the debt limit, including costs associated with public health and safety.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by 184-234. [CQ, [2/11/16](#); Kelly of IL Part A Amdt. 4 to H.R. 3442, Vote 71, [2/11/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Require an Explanation of if Could Pay Only Principal & Interest**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for a: “Duffy, R-Wis., amendment that would require the Treasury secretary’s statement of intent to include an explanation of whether the administration is technologically capable of paying only principal and interest on the national debt, as opposed to other obligations, in the event that the debt limit is reached.” The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by 240-176. [CQ, [2/11/16](#); Duffy of WI Part A Amdt. to H.R. 3442, Vote 72, [2/11/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Including Individual Salary & Wage Projections, Consumer Spending & GDP Impact**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment that would require the Treasury secretary’s statement of intent to include individual salary and wage projections, projections of consumer spending and the impact of projected consumer spending on gross domestic product.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole 171-245. [CQ, [2/11/16](#); Grijalva of AZ Part A Amdt. 7 to H.R. 3442, Vote 73, [2/11/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Including How Delayed Action Would Impact the Economy**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Takano, D-Calif., amendment that would require the Treasury secretary’s statement of intent to include an explanation of how delayed action on raising the debt limit and the threat of default would impact the economy.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole 190-227. [CQ, [2/11/16](#); Takano of CA Part A Amdt. 8 to H.R. 3442, Vote 74, [2/11/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Including an Analysis of Some Long-Term Revenue Lost**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Doggett, D-Texas, motion to recommit the bill to the Ways and Means Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would require the Treasury secretary’s statement of intent to include an analysis of long-term revenue lost due to tax policies that “harm middle-class workers and families” and long-term revenue lost due to “tax avoidance and evasion” in relation to certain tax provisions, including corporate inversions, carried interest and estate tax rules. The amendment also would remove a provision in the bill that would require the Treasury secretary’s statement of intent to include projections of fiscal health and sustainability of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.” The motion was rejected 179-238. [CQ, [2/11/16](#); H.R. 3442, Vote 75, [2/11/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Consider Requiring Treasury Secretary to Appear Before Congress Before Debt Limit Was Reached & Limit NSF Grants**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 609) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 3442) that would require the Treasury secretary to appear before Congress before the public debt is expected to reach the statutory limit and the bill (HR 3293) that would require the National Science Foundation to issue new basic research grants only if the foundation determines that the grants promote progress of science, are worthy of federal funding and are in the national interest. The bill would specify what factors would be considered as being in the national interest.” The rule passed 236-178. [CQ, [2/10/16](#), H.Res. 609, Vote 66, [2/10/16](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Budget Deal Due to “Restructuring Medicare... Would Punish Rural Healthcare” & Cutting Crop Insurance**

“Today Congressman Ryan Zinke voted against the White House-driven budget act, citing the drastic cuts to crop insurance and damaging impacts on rural health, as well as the bill’s failure to actually address the financial problems facing the federal government. Click here to view a section by section summary of the bill. ‘This deal, which was negotiated in secret and blindsided almost every member of Congress just about 24 hours before votes, does little to nothing to pay down the debt or curb Washington’s spending addiction,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘Like any compromise, this bill includes the good, the bad and the ugly. A positive is that it produces the first real reforms since 1983 to Social Security by making it more solvent and reducing fraud, and it prevents a rate hike for new Medicare enrollees. The bad includes restructuring Medicare in a way that would punish rural healthcare in Montana. And the ugly is downright ugly. The deal negotiated by the White House drastically cuts the national crop insurance program, essentially ending a bipartisan program Montana farmers rely upon in tough years.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Want To See A Balanced Budget Amendment, And If Congress Doesn’t Pass A Balanced Budget, They Shouldn’t Get Paid.”**

“Today Congressman Ryan Zinke voted against the White House-driven budget act, citing the drastic cuts to crop insurance and damaging impacts on rural health, as well as the bill’s failure to actually address the financial problems facing the federal government. [...] Zinke continued, ‘In Montana, if your basement fills with water, you don’t raise the ceiling to let more water in; you pump the water out. That’s the analogy I use to explain why just raising the debt ceiling doesn’t make sense. Simply raising the debt limit to allow the federal government to accumulate more debt without actually having a plan to pay off the debt and balance the budget is not a serious plan and doesn’t solve the problem. I want to see a balanced budget amendment, and if Congress doesn’t pass a balanced budget, they shouldn’t get paid. The people of Montana sent me to Washington to get things done and help right the course. Voting for this bill would do nothing to put our nation on track to good

financial health, and it would be a slap in the face to every Montanan who works hard every day to make a good living for themselves and their families.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/29/15](#)]

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### **Zinke Voted Against Raising the Debt Limit**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Rogers, R-Ky., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill with a modified Boehner amendment that would replace the bill with legislation that would suspend the debt limit until March 15, 2017 and increase the discretionary spending cap for fiscal 2016 by \$50 billion and for fiscal 2017 by \$30 billion, with the increases split equally between defense and non-defense spending. Offsets through mandatory spending cuts and revenue increases would include increasing premiums companies pay to the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation to insure private pension plans, the sale of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and changes to the federal crop insurance program. It would prevent an estimated 52 percent premium increase for certain Medicare beneficiaries and instead provide for a lower increase, and would make changes to keep the Social Security disability insurance trust solvent until 2022.” The motion passed by 266-167. [CQ, [10/28/15](#), H.R.1314, Vote 579, [10/28/15](#)]

### **Bill Averted Fed. Gov. Defaulting & Reduced Risk of Gov Shutdown Over 2 Yrs**

“The measure, which was approved by a vote of 266 to 167, with 79 Republicans joining 187 Democrats in favor, averts a potentially devastating default by lifting the federal borrowing limit through March 2017, and it sharply reduces the risk of a government shutdown by setting clear spending targets for the next two years. The adoption of the budget bill, which now goes to the Senate where approval is also expected, was just a part of Mr. Boehner’s departing effort to sweep clean a path forward for his successor, Representative Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, who will be formally installed as speaker on Thursday.” [New York Times, [10/26/15](#)]

### **Fixed Potential Shortfall in Social Security Payments to Disabled & Some Increased Medicare Premiums & Deductibles**

“The legislation would suspend the current \$18.1 trillion debt limit through March 2017. The budget portion would increase the current ‘caps’ on total agency spending by \$50 billion in 2016 and \$30 billion in 2017, offset by savings elsewhere in the budget. And it would permit about \$16 billion to be added on top of that in 2016, classified as war funding, with a comparable boost in 2017. It also would clean up expected problems in Social Security and Medicare by fixing a shortfall looming next year in Social Security payments to the disabled, as well as a large increase in Medicare premiums and deductibles for doctors’ visits and other outpatient care.” [AP, [10/27/15](#)]

### **Raises Spending Caps Above Sequestration Levels, Shared Between Defense & Non-Defense Budgets**

“Additionally, over the next two years, government spending would rise \$80 billion above the caps that sequestration currently allows. That money would be doled out evenly between defense and non-defense accounts, with \$50 billion budgeted for the first year and \$30 billion for the second. On top of that, the bill

would include \$32 billion for the overseas contingency fund -- a veritable piggybank for administrations to cover the costs of wars -- split over the next two years. That would bring the deal's total spending increase to \$112 billion over two years. A congressional aide noted that these spending levels are far greater than the \$63 billion from two years of sequestration relief passed during the last deal hammered out by Rep. Ryan and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) at the end of 2013." [Huffington Post, [10/26/15](#)]

### **GOP Who Voted Against Budget Deal Cited Opposition to Raising Debt Limit & Increasing Funding for Domestic Programs, & Closed Door Negotiations**

"The majority of Republicans, 167 of the 247-member caucus, voted against the bill. Many cited concerns about individual provisions, in addition to their broad opposition to suspending the limit on the government's ability to borrow funds to pay existing commitments and to putting more money into domestic programs. Additionally, many expressed anger at the means by which the deal was negotiated -- behind closed doors by Boehner, R-Ohio, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif." [US News & World Report, [10/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Move Forward a Bill That Would Increase Discretionary Spending Caps For 2 Yrs & Raise The Debt Limit**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for a: "Cole, R-Okla., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 495) that would provide for House floor consideration of the intended legislative vehicle for a measure that would increase discretionary spending caps for two fiscal years and suspend the debt limit until March 15, 2017." The motion passed by 325-103. [CQ, [10/28/15](#), H.Res.495, Vote 577, [10/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Again to Move Forward a Bill That Would Increase Discretionary Spending Caps For 2 Yrs & Raise The Debt Limit**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: "Adoption of the rule (H Res 495) that would provide for House floor consideration of the intended legislative vehicle for a measure that would increase discretionary spending caps for two fiscal years and suspend the debt limit until March 15, 2017." The rule passed by 392-37. [CQ, [10/28/15](#), H.Res.495, Vote 578, [10/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Frustrated by Annual Debt Ceiling Vote Because They Could Not Figure Out "How To Control... Spending Habits!"**

"There's a looming deadline in Washington that could pose some big problems for all of us. The U.S. will essentially run out of money around November 3rd unless it raises the debt ceiling. [...] That's a combo platter of frustration expressed today by Representative Ryan Zinke, a Republican from Montana: 'To go through a debt ceiling balance every year because we can't figure out in Washington how to control our spending habits!'" [WJAR, [10/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke's Office Said the Debt Ceiling "Racked Up From Years Of Deficit Spending Under Both Parties"**

"U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., said he's worried that House Republicans will risk economic disaster this week by not unconditionally raising the nation's debt limit. [...] Contacted by The Gazette a spokesperson for U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., indicated Zinke did not prefer unconditioned approval of a debt ceiling increase. 'Congressman Zinke is dedicated to paying down our nation's nearly \$20 trillion debt that was racked up from years of deficit spending under both parties,' said Heather Swift, a Zinke spokesperson. 'Rep. Zinke realizes that the status quo is not sustainable, and that a debt ceiling increase needs to be accompanied by a real plan to get our nation out of the fiscal hole that we are in. 'House and Senate Republicans have repeatedly done the hard work to create plans that balance our budget only to be blocked by the administration and Democrats in Congress who refuse to confront the problem.'" [Montana Standard, [10/21/15](#)]

### **Cosp. Bill to Reduce National Debt & Wasteful Spending**

In October 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A bill to reduce the national debt and eliminate waste in Government spending, and for other purposes.” [CQ, Accessed [10/29/15](#); H.R. 3534, Co-sponsored 10/28/15, Introduced [9/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Bill to Guarantee the Debt of the U.S. Be Paid in Full & On Time, Under Any Circumstances**

In April 2015, Zinke cosponsored “a bill to ensure the payment of interest and principal of the debt of the United States.” [CQ, Accessed [5/1/15](#); H.R. 692, Cosponsored 4/29/15, Introduced [2/3/15](#)]

## BUDGET ISSUES - MONTANA

- ✓ Zinke voted in favor of the 2011 biennium budget, in which 11 percent of the budget was funded by the federal stimulus funds.
- ✓ He voted in favor of the 2011 biennium budget, which used federal stimulus funds to replace some state funding for education.
- ✓ He voted in favor of the 2011 biennium budget, which cut \$84.52 million from the Governor's proposal for K-12 education.
- ✓ He voted in favor of the 2011 biennium budget, which cut \$53.13 million from the Governor's proposal for higher education.
- ✓ He voted in favor of the 2013 biennium budget that cut \$35 million from the Governor's proposal for K-12 education.
- ✓ He voted in favor of the 2013 biennium budget that cut \$14.125 million from the Governor's proposal for higher education.
- ✓ He voted in favor of the 2013 biennium budget that cut \$35.67 million from the Governor's proposal for health and human services.
- ✓ He voted in favor of the 2013 biennium budget that rejected a previously negotiated pay plan for public employees, keeping salaries stagnant.

### **FY 2011 Biennium Budget: Voted in Favor of \$9 Billion Budget**

In 2009, Zinke voted in favor of the \$9 billion 2011 Biennium Budget, which included over \$1 billion in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the federal stimulus. The final budget included a \$282 million ending fund balance, which could be used if actual revenues were not as large as expected. The budget was approved 27-23 in the Senate. [[HB 2, 4/28/09, 4/28/09](#); Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#); Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Biennium Budget was "Primarily a Present Law Budget"**

According to the Montana Budget & Policy Center, the 2011 Biennium Budget was "primarily a present law budget." [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

*NOTE: A present law budget has enough funding to maintain services set at levels by the previous Legislature.*

## **Federal Stimulus**

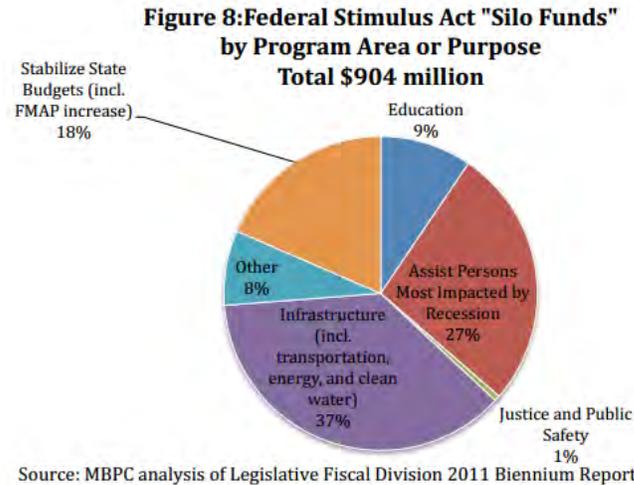
### **11.41% of the Budget was Funded by the Stimulus**

According to the Montana Budget & Policy Center, 11.41 percent of the 2011 Biennium Budget was funded by the federal stimulus. The state of Montana was expected to receive over \$1.73 billion in funds from the stimulus act, including \$1.05 billion that would go directly to the state for further distribution. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

*Note: Zinke has not commented on the stimulus*

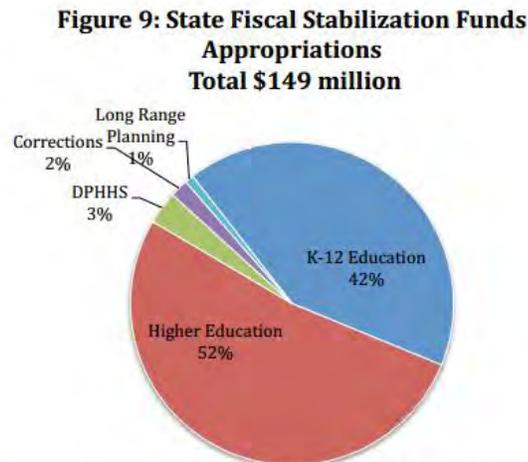
## \$904 Million of the Stimulus Funds was Outline for Specific Areas

\$904 million of the stimulus fund was outlined for specific purposes and programs by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, nicknamed “silo funds.” The table below details how the \$904 million funds were allocated. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]



## 18% of the “Silo Funds” Went to Fiscal Stabilization Funds

18 percent, or \$149 million, of the stimulus’ “silo funds” went to fiscal stabilization funds to prevent cuts to state government programs. The funds were generally used to replace state funding rather than add to it. The table below details how the stabilization funds were allocated. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]



## Using the Stimulus to Reduce State Funding for Education “Violated the Spirit”

The Montana Budget & Policy Center charged that using stimulus funds to reduce state funding for education “may have violated the spirit of the act,” since the intent as to increase total funding for education. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

## Cuts Below Present Law Levels

### Several Agencies Cut Below Present Law Levels

According to the Montana Budget & Policy Center, the Consumer Counsel; the Department of Revenue; the Department of Administration; the Montana Consensus Council; the Office of the Public Defender;

the Department of Corrections; the Library Commission; and the Historical Society were cut below present law levels. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **2% Cuts the Board Reduction in Agency General Fund Budgets**

According to the Montana Budget & Policy Center, most agencies received a 2 percent across the board reduction to their budgets, which would increase the likelihood that agencies would have to reduce staff and/or services, which could further exacerbate the economic outlook for the state. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **3% Increase in Vacancy Savings Required**

In the 2011 Biennium Budget, vacancy savings were increased to 7% from 4% across most agencies. Vacancy savings are the savings a department receives when a job is left unfilled, since the department does not have to pay an employee's salary or benefits. The Montana Budget & Policy Center stated that this increased requirement would cut state employment and/or other services without a corresponding cut to the delivery requirement. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

## **Education**

### **Budget Cut \$84.52 Million from K-12 Education**

The 2011 Biennium Budget contained \$84.52 million less, which included federal stimulus funds, for K-12 education than the Governor's recommendation. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Budget Cut \$53.13 Million from Higher Education**

The 2011 Biennium Budget contained \$53.13 million less, which included federal stimulus funds, for higher education than the Governor's recommendation. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **FY 2013 Biennium Budget: Voted in Favor of \$7.3 Billion Budget**

In 2011, Zinke voted in favor of the \$7.4 billion 2013 Biennium Budget, which included \$3.4 billion in state funds and \$3.9 billion in federal funds, but did not include K-12 education funding. The final budget that passed the Legislature was \$77 million lower than the governor's proposed budget. The budget was approved (27-23) in the Senate. [[HB 2, 4/28/11, 4/28/11](#); Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Governor's Budget Was "Essentially a Present Law Budget"**

According to the Montana Budget & Policy Center, the Governor's proposed budget was "essentially a present law budget," meaning it contained enough funding to maintain services set at levels by the last Legislature. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Artificially Low Due to One-Time ARRA Funds**

The budget approved by the previously legislature was artificially low, since one-time American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds replaced \$105 million in state dollars for services for Fiscal years 2011 and 2012. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Cuts Were Unnecessary**

According to the Montana Budget & Policy Center, the cuts to public programs were unnecessary; since the Legislature balanced its budgets using "out-of-date and overly pessimistic" revenue estimates. Legislative staff released a report, which stated they expected revenue for 2011 to be \$67 to \$77 million higher than the Legislature's estimate. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Budget Cut \$35 Million from K-12 Education**

The 2013 Biennium Budget contained \$12 million less in state support for local schools than in the governor's budget and an additional loss of \$23 million in one-time American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds that funded ongoing education costs in the 2011 Biennium Budget. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

*NOTE: The Montana Budget & Policy Center noted that the analysis of K-12 funding was complicated since only part of the funding is contained in HB 2 (the General Appropriations Act), with significant portions also funded through a statutory appropriation known as the "guarantee account." Analysis of the 2013 biennium budget for K-12 was further complicated by the veto of HB 316, a companion bill to the budget.*

### **Budget Cut \$14.125 Million from Higher Education**

The 2013 Biennium Budget contained \$14.125 million less than the governor's proposed spending levels for higher education. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Tuition Increase to Address Shortfalls**

To meet budget shortfalls, higher education tuition would rise 5 percent in each of the next two years. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

## **Health and Human Services**

### **Budget Cut \$35.67 Million from All of Health and Human Services**

The 2013 Biennium Budget cut \$35.67 million from all of Health and Human Services. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Budget Cut \$7.2 Million to Tobacco Prevention Programs**

The 2013 Biennium Budget cut \$7.2 million from tobacco prevention programs. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Budget Cut \$2.16 Million from Family Planning Programs**

The 2013 Biennium Budget cut \$2.16 million from family planning programs. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Budget Cut More than Half a Million from High Cost Children in Foster Care**

The 2013 Biennium Budget cut more than half a million from foster care benefits for high cost children. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

## **Environment**

### **Budget Cut \$2.03 Million from the Department of Environmental Quality**

The 2013 Biennium Budget cut \$2.03 million from the Governor's proposed spending level to the Department of Environmental Quality. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Budget Cut \$1.69 Million from the Department of Livestock**

The 2013 Biennium Budget cut \$1.69 million from the Governor's proposed spending level to the Department of Livestock. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

## **Department of Revenue**

### **Budget Cut \$3.15 Million from Department of Revenue**

The 2013 Biennium Budget cut \$3.15 million from the Governor's proposed spending levels. The Department of Revenue estimated that for every dollar cut, they would collect \$6 less in revenue. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

## **Public Employee Salaries**

### **Budget Rejected \$25 Million Pay Plan With 1 Percent Pay Increase for Public Employees**

The 2013 Biennium Budget rejected a \$25 million pay plan for public employees. The plan would have provided a 1 percent increase in 2012 and 3 percent increase in 2013. Without the pay plan, public employees salaried would remain at 2009 levels. According to the MEA-MFT, this was the first time that the Legislature rejected a proposed pay plan that was bargained by the Governor and unions. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

## **Crime and Public Safety**

### **Budget Cut \$13.37 Million from the Department of Corrections**

The 2013 Biennium Budget cut \$13.37 million from the Governor's proposed spending levels for the Department of Corrections. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Budget Cut \$6.67 Million from the Department of Corrections**

The 2013 Biennium Budget cut \$6.67 million from the Governor's proposed spending levels for the Department of Justice. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Budget Cut \$2.275 Million from the Judicial Brand**

The 2013 Biennium Budget cut \$2.275 million from the Governor's proposed spending levels for the Judicial Brand. [Montana Budget & Policy Center, accessed [5/29/14](#)]

### **Apologized for Vote After \$97.8M Bond Bill**

In April 2011, Zinke voted to authorize the state to sell \$97.8 million worth of bonds for construction of new state buildings. The bonding money was to be spent on a new Montana Historical Society museum, university system buildings, and part of the cost of a new veterans' home. Zinke said, "I'm sorry we have to borrow money to do it." The bill passed (36-14). [[HB 439, 4/11/11](#); Billings Gazette, 4/08/11]

### **Voted Against Appropriating Money for Cultural Grants**

In April 2011, Zinke voted against a House bill that would have established priorities for cultural aesthetic project grant awards and appropriated money for cultural grants. The bill passed (32-18). [[HB 9, 4/11/11](#)]

### **2011: 92% Rating from Montana Chamber of Commerce**

In 2011, Zinke received a 92 percent rating from the Montana Chamber of Commerce on his business and consumer related votes. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **2009: 92% Rating from Montana Chamber of Commerce**

In 2009, Zinke received a 92 percent rating from the Montana Chamber of Commerce on his business and consumer related votes. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **2011: 64% Rating from the Montana Contractors' Association**

In 2011, Zinke received a 64 percent rating from the Montana Contractors' Association. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**2011: 88% Rating from the Montana National Federation of Independent Business**

In 2011, Zinke received an 88 percent rating from the Montana National Federation of Independent Business, for his positions on small business policy. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**2011: 24% Rating from Montana Conservatives**

In 2011, Zinke received a 24 percent rating on his budget, spending, and taxes votes from the Montana Conservatives. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**2009: 11% Rating from Montana Conservatives**

In 2009, Zinke received an 11 percent rating on his budget, spending, and taxes votes from the Montana Conservatives. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**2009: 90% Rating from the United Property Owners of Montana**

In 2009, Zinke received a 90 percent rating from the United Property Owners of Montana. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**Voted to Indefinitely Postpone Bill to Create Budget Stabilization Account**

On March 19, 2009, Zinke voted for SB 114 to be indefinitely postponed. SB 114 would have provided for budget stability by creating a budget stabilization account. The bill was indefinitely postponed (26-24). [[SB 114](#), [3/19/09](#)]

**Indicated His Support for Slight Increase in State Funding for Transportation**

As part of a 2008 Political Courage Test from Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that he supported a slight increase in state funding for transportation and highway infrastructure. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**Indicated His Support for Slight Decrease in Welfare Funding**

As part of a 2008 Political Courage Test from Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that he supported a slight decrease in state welfare funding. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**Indicated His Opposition to Using a “Rainy Day” Fund to Balance State Budget**

As part of a 2008 Political Courage Test from Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that he opposed using a “rainy day” fund to balance the state budget. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**Indicated He Opposed Fee Increases to Balance State Budget**

As part of a 2008 Political Courage Test from Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that he opposed using fee increases to balance the state budget. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE & ELECTION LAW

- ✓ Zinke voted to block a Constitutional amendment to overturn the *Citizens United* Supreme Court ruling. He was criticized for “taking Super-PACs to a new extreme” and reaping benefits from a Super PAC he founded.
- ✓ He voted to limit the power of the House Ethics Committee to investigate its members.
- ✓ He voted to close voter registration the Friday before Election Day.
- ✓ He changed his vote on the districting law at the end of session, switching his vote against it, to a vote in favor.
- ✓ He opposed spending limits on state level political campaigns.
- ✓ He opposed term limits for state senators and representatives, but supported them for the governor.
- ✓ He supported requiring a “valid Montana ID for all elections.”

### **Voted to Block Constitutional Amdt to Overturn *Citizens United* Ruling**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for blocking a motion to require Congress to vote on a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* decision and promote transparency in our political system. The previous question carried, 238-182. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 38, [Vote #38](#), 1/21/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [1/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported the *Citizens United* Decision, Saying “Money Drives Message”**

Zinke supports the *Citizens United* Decision of allowing unlimited spending by outside special interests, saying during a House debate, “I can tell you, money drives message and that is the cold facts of it.” [Montana Newspaper Association Debates, [6/14/14](#); Missoulian, [4/25/14](#)]

### **Zinke Reaping Benefits from *Citizens United*, Using Former Super PAC to Launch Campaign**

#### **Zinke “Taking Super-PACs to a New Extreme.”**

According to the *Huffington Post*: “The point of Colbert and Stewart’s comedy bit was to demonstrate that the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* decision had rendered campaign finance law remarkably flimsy-so weak that it was legal for a person to start a super-PAC, raise unlimited heaps of cash from big-money donors that super-PAC, quit the super-PAC, and then run for federal office supported by that super-PAC...Now Ryan Zinke-a 52 year old ex-Navy SEAL and former state senator who is running to be Montana’s only congressional seat is putting Colbert’s theory to the test.” [Huffington Post, [11/01/13](#)]

#### **“GOP Candidate Benefiting from Super PAC He Founded Takes Heat from Fellow Republicans.”**

“But the decision by the group, Special Operations for America, to support Zinke is not exactly surprising. Zinke founded it himself two years ago, and he’s now reaping the benefits of its support as he runs for Congress. It’s not completely clear how legal this set-up is in this post-*Citizens United* world. But it smells fishy enough that it’s raising objections -- not only from campaign finance reform experts,

but also from Zinke's fellow Republicans, who don't usually complain about the influence of super PACs." [Huffington Post, [5/07/14](#)]

#### **"Zinke Reaps Benefits of super PAC He Founded."**

"A U.S. House candidate in Montana is benefiting from a political action committee he created, leading at least one opponent and some experts to question the legality of the peculiar arrangement. Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL who is seeking the Republican nomination for Montana's lone congressional seat, created the Special Operations for America (SOFA) super PAC to back Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign. The committee now backs candidates who support the military — and their first candidate is Zinke, a 52-year-old former state senator. Since October, when Zinke announced his candidacy, SOFA PAC has spent more than \$70,000 on television, radio and Internet advertising in support of his campaign." [AP, [2/14/14](#)]

#### **"Group Files Complaint Over Super PAC Linked to Zinke."**

"A campaign watchdog group has asked the Federal Election Commission to investigate a political action committee associated with Ryan Zinke, who is running for Montana's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Zinke, a Republican, formed the Super PAC called "Special Operations for Montana" to oppose Barack Obama's presidential campaign. Now, the group is supporting Zinke with a couple of campaign ads." [KRTV, [3/06/14](#)]

#### **Voted For Limiting Power Of OCE And House Ethics Investigating Members**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for a House Rules package that contained a rules change that would help members under ethics investigations by the Office of Congressional Ethics and House Ethics Committee. "In one of its first actions of the new year, the House of Representatives on Tuesday approved rules changes that could give lawmakers a new defense against ethics investigations. The new language, added Monday night to the sections that establish the House Ethics Committee and the independent Office of Congressional Ethics, says the two bodies 'may not take any action that would deny any person any right or protection provided under the Constitution of the United States.' The language also states that a person subject to a review by the Office of Congressional Ethics 'shall be informed of the right to be represented by counsel and invoking that right should not be held negatively against them.' ... 'Clearly (the new language) was put in there to allow members of Congress to restrain certain activities of the ethics committees based on their own interpretation of what the Constitution means,' said Craig Holman of the watchdog group Public Citizen." The resolution passed, 234-172. [H Res 5, [Vote #6](#), 1/06/15; USA Today, [1/06/15](#)]

#### **Voted to Shorten Late Registration**

In April 2011, Zinke voted in favor of a House bill that would close late voter registration the Friday before an election rather than on Election Day. The bill passed (28-22). [[HB 180](#), [4/01/11](#)]

#### **Voted Against Banning Private Entities from Prohibiting Political Speech**

In March 2009, Zinke voted against a House bill, which stated that a private entity could not prohibit the placement of signs for an election, appointment or defeat of candidate, as a condition of property ownership. The bill passed (37-13). [[HB 546](#), [3/30/09](#)]

#### **Changed Vote on Districting Law, Voting Against It, Then Changing His Vote at the End of the Session**

In February 2009, on the third reading of SB 187, Zinke voted against the bill, which would limit districting to one percent deviation. However, at the end of the session, Zinke asked to change his vote. After a vote to reconsider, Zinke voted in favor of SB 187. [State Senate Journal, [2/06/09](#)]

#### **Supported Limiting Contributions to State Legislative Candidates**

In 2008, Zinke indicated that he supported limiting contributions from individuals, PACs, corporations, and political parties to state legislative candidates. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Opposed Spending Limits on State Level Political Campaigns**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his opposition to imposing spending limits on state-level political campaigns. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Requiring Full & Timely Disclosure of Campaign Finance**

In 2008, Zinke indicated support of requiring full and timely disclosure of campaign finance information. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Opposed Term Limits for State Senators & Representatives**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his opposition to the limit of terms imposed on Montana's state Senators and Representatives. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Support Term Limits for Montana Governors**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support of the limit of terms imposed on Montana Governors. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported "the Requirement for a Valid Montana ID for All Elections"**

In 2008, Zinke said that he supported "the requirement for a valid Montana ID for all elections." Zinke said, "I support the requirement for a valid Montana ID for all elections." [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## CIVIL RIGHTS

- ✓ Zinke cosponsored a resolution disagreeing with the Supreme Court decision declaring state bans of same sex marriage unconstitutional. Previously, he signed a letter arguing state prohibition of same sex marriage was constitutional.
- ✓ He has argued “marriage is between one man and one woman.”
- ✓ He has voted against LGBT discrimination protections in federal contracts.
- ✓ He promised to talk to Montana VA officials about removing a pride flag and his staff admitted he had not and did not intend to do so.
- ✓ Zinke said he did not support granting spousal rights to same sex couples or the adoption of children by same-sex couples.
- ✓ ...BUT he claimed he was “undecided” on same sex civil unions.

### **2011: 25% Rating from the Montana Human Rights Network**

In 2011, Zinke received a 25 percent rating from the Montana Human Rights Network for his positions related to civil liberties and civil rights. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **2009: 44% Rating from the Montana Human Rights Network**

In 2009, Zinke received a 44 percent rating from the Montana Human Rights Network for his positions related to civil liberties and civil rights. The Montana Human Rights Network promotes pluralism, equality and justice as well as challenges bigotry and intolerance. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#); Montana Human Rights Network, accessed [6/16/14](#)]

### **Supported Hate Crime Legislation**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for hate crime legislation. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## LGBT CIVIL RIGHTS

### **Zinke Cosp. Res. Disagreeing With SCOTUS Ruling that Banning Same Sex Marriage Was Unconstitutional**

In July 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A resolution providing that the House of Representatives disagrees with the majority opinion in Obergefell et al. v. Hodges, and for other purposes.” [CQ, Accessed [7/16/15](#); H. Res 359, Co-sponsored 7/15/15, Introduced [7/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Believe Marriage Is Between One Man And One Woman.”**

In June 2015, Zinke said: “Today’s court decision undermines religious freedom and usurps the rights of Montana and several other states that have chosen to define marriage within their states. While I believe marriage is between one man and one woman, I urge all Americans to treat each other with dignity, compassion and respect.” [Congressman Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [6/26/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Weakening LGBT Discrimination Protections In Federal Contracts**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the FY16 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill that would bar funds from being used in contravention of an executive order prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity against their employees or those seeking employment. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 241-184. [HR 2577, [Vote #326](#), 6/09/15; Congressional Record, [6/09/15](#)]

### **Zinke Promised to Ask VA Officials to Remove a Pride Flag Flying at Montana VA**

“The rainbow-colored pride flag for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans is flying at Montana Veterans Affairs headquarters this month, and some vets aren’t happy. [...] Shortly thereafter, Montana Republican Party Treasurer Debra Brown informed followers on social media that she had spoken with Rep. Ryan Zinke, who was meeting with VA officials to talk about removing the pride flag. Zinke’s staff told the *Billings Gazette* on Monday that he hasn’t met with Montana VA officials to discuss the flag issue and doesn’t plan to. The *Billings Gazette* asked for Zinke’s opinion about the VA flying the pride flag. He didn’t respond.” [Helena Independent Record, [6/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke’s Staff Admitted He Had No Plan to Meet with MT VA Officials**

“The rainbow-colored pride flag for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans is flying at Montana Veterans Affairs headquarters this month, and some vets aren’t happy. [...] Shortly thereafter, Montana Republican Party Treasurer Debra Brown informed followers on social media that she had spoken with Rep. Ryan Zinke, who was meeting with VA officials to talk about removing the pride flag. Zinke’s staff told the *Billings Gazette* on Monday that he hasn’t met with Montana VA officials to discuss the flag issue and doesn’t plan to. The *Billings Gazette* asked for Zinke’s opinion about the VA flying the pride flag. He didn’t respond.” [Helena Independent Record, [6/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Signed Letter Stating State Prohibition of Same Sex Marriage Was Constitutional**

“A total of 57 congressional Republicans — including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz — joined forces in a bicameral brief filed on Friday urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold state bans on same-sex marriage. The 32-page friend-of-the-court brief — signed by six U.S. senators and 51 U.S. House members — makes the case that state prohibitions on same-sex marriage are constitutional on the basis of principles of federalism, judicial restraint and states’ traditional sovereignty over domestic relations.” Zinke signed the letter. [Washington Blade, [4/3/15](#); Amicus Brief, Accessed [4/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Did “Not Support Same Sex Marriages” or Spousal Rights to Same Sex Couples**

In 2008, Zinke indicated that same-sex couples should not be allowed to marry, adopt children, and the state of Montana should not provide state-level spousal rights to same sex couples. Zinke said, “I do not support same sex marriages or the adoption of children by same-sex couples.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **..BUT Undecided on Same-Sex Civil Unions**

In 2008, Zinke said that he was “undecided on the issue of same-sex civil union.” Zinke said, “I am undecided on the issue of same-sex civil union.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS**

### **Voted For Delaying A Resolution That Would Require Removal Of All Confederate Symbols From The House**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for delaying a “privileged resolution that would require the Speaker of the House to remove all symbols of the Confederacy from the House wing of U.S. Capitol and donate such symbols to the Library of Congress.” The motion passed 240-184. [HR 341, Vote [#385](#), 6/25/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/25/15](#)]

### **The Hill: House Delays Floor Vote On Removing Confederate Symbol From Capitol**

“The House referred a resolution on Thursday that would remove symbols of the Confederacy from the Capitol and adjacent office buildings to the committee level for possible later consideration. ... [Democratic Rep. Bennie] Thompson’s resolution is privileged, which forces the House to expedite its consideration. The House vote on Thursday of 240-184 sends his resolution to the House Administration Committee for further review, instead of immediately voting on the measure. Democrats uniformly opposed the move to delay consideration, while all but one Republican voted in favor. [The Hill, [6/25/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration On A Resolution To Remove Any State Flag Containing The Confederate Battle Flag From The U.S. Capitol Grounds**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration “for an immediate vote on Leader Pelosi’s privileged resolution to remove any state flag containing the Confederate Battle flag from the U.S. Capitol grounds.” A vote against the previous question was to force the vote on removing state flags containing the Confederate battle flag from the U.S. Capitol grounds. The motion to order the previous question passed, 242 to 185. [H Res 350, [Vote #429](#), 7/09/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [7/09/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Remove All Symbols of the Confederacy from the House Wing Of U.S. Capitol & Donate to LOC**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: “McCarthy, R-Calif., motion to refer the resolution (H RES 341) to the House Administration Committee. The privileged resolution would require the Speaker of the House to remove all symbols of the Confederacy from the House wing of U.S. Capitol and donate such symbols to the Library of Congress.” The motion was agreed to 240-184. [CQ, [6/25/15](#); H.Res.341, Vote 385, [6/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to End Debate on Removing Any State Flag Containing the Confederate Battle Flag from the House Grounds**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “McCarthy, R-Calif., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the resolution (H Res 355) that would remove any state flag containing the Confederate Battle flag from the House grounds.” The motion passed 238-185. [CQ, [7/10/15](#); H. Res. 355, Vote 425, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Refer to Committee a Resolution to Remove Any State Flag Containing the Confederate Battle Flag from the House Grounds**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “McCarthy, R-Calif., motion to refer the resolution (H Res 355) to the House Administration Committee. The privileged resolution would remove any state flag containing the Confederate Battle flag from the House grounds.” The motion passed 238-176. [CQ, [7/10/15](#); H. Res. 355, Vote 426, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Opposed Government Considering Race & Gender in Contracting**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his opposition for the state government to consider race and gender in state government contracting and hiring decisions. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **RELIGIOUS CIVIL RIGHTS**

### **Supported Voluntary Prayer in Public Schools**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for a voluntary prayer in public schools. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Moment of Silence in Public Schools**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for a moment of silence in public schools. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## CONSUMER ISSUES

- ✓ Zinke voted to change the courts certain suits are heard in, against exempting cases when plaintiffs seek compensation due to a bad faith insurer or in connection with the sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor.
- ✓ He voted for allowing manufacturers to meet federal warranty requirements by posting the information on their website.
- ✓ He voted to require federal courts to impose sanctions on parties that file frivolous civil lawsuits.
- ✓ He voted to regulate commercial space ventures, but exempt passenger safety regulations for 10 years.
- ✓ He voted for mandating private sector input on federal agency rules, expanding judicial review and restrict the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's funding.
- ✓ He voted against exempting FDA consumer protections from greater regulatory review & legal challenges.
- ✓ He voted to “dramatically” restrict the government’s ability to enact new safety standards.
- ✓ He voted against sharpening penalties for consumer protection violations against the elderly and people with development disabilities.
- ✓ He voted against legislation that would require transparency among automobile insurers
- ✓ Zinke has sided with big banks and corporations over Montanans

### **Zinke Voted to the Change the Court in Which Certain Suits Are Heard**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would set a new, national standard for deciding whether certain lawsuits are heard in federal instead of state court because an in-state co-defendant should not have been joined to the case. The bill would require district courts to deny motions to send a lawsuit back to state court because a defendant is from the same state as a plaintiff if: there was fraud in the pleading of jurisdictional facts in relation to the co-defendant joined to the lawsuit, it is not plausible that state law would impose liability against the co-defendant, state or federal law bars claims against the co-defendant, or if there is no good faith intention to seek a judgment against the co-defendant.” The bill was passed by a vote of 229-189. [CQ, Accessed [2/26/16](#); H.R.3624, Vote 89, [2/25/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Exempting Cases When Plaintiffs Seek Compensation Because Bad Faith of an Insurer**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Cartwright, D-Pa., amendment that would exempt cases in which plaintiffs seek compensation because of the bad faith of an insurer.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 178-237. [CQ, Accessed [2/26/16](#); Cartwright of Pennsylvania Amendment No. 2 to H.R.3624, Vote 87, [2/25/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Exempting Cases In Which The Plaintiff Seeks Relief In Connection With The Sexual Abuse And Exploitation Of A Minor**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Watson Coleman, D-N.J., motion to recommit the bill to the Judiciary Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill cases in which the plaintiff seeks relief in connection with the sexual abuse and exploitation of a minor.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 180-239. [CQ, Accessed [2/26/16](#); H.R.3624, Vote 88, [2/25/16](#)]

### **Zinke Missed Vote to Change the Requirement for How Restaurants Disclose Calorie Information On Menus**

In February 2016, Zinke missed vote for: “Passage of the bill that would change the requirement for how restaurants and similar retail establishments with more than 20 locations must disclose calorie information on their menus. Instead of the current requirement for businesses to disclose the number of calories in a “standard menu item,” businesses could opt to disclose the number of calories per serving along with the number of servings or disclose the number of calories per common unit division of the standard menu item. The bill would allow for disclosures to have variations from actual nutrient content, including inadvertent human error, variations in ingredients and serving size, and other reasonable variations. Additionally, the bill would allow businesses to disclose calorie information solely online if the majority of their customers order their food off-premises, pre-empt the ability of states to petition the Food and Drug Administration to require menu labeling that is different from federal requirements and would restrict civil lawsuits for alleged violation of the menu labeling law.” The bill passed by a 266-144 vote. [CQ, [2/12/16](#); H.R. 2017, Vote 81, [2/12/16](#)]

*NOTE: Zinke appeared to miss votes to attend his son’s state wrestling tournament.*

### **White House Said Would “Reduce Consumers’ Access to Nutrition Information”**

“The House passed legislation on Friday to weaken an Obama administration regulation to require nutrition information on restaurant menus. [...] The Obama administration said it opposes the bill rolling back the regulation, but stopped short of a veto threat this week. ‘If enacted, it would reduce consumers’ access to nutrition information and likely create consumer confusion by introducing a great deal of variability into how calories are declared,’ the White House said in a statement of administration policy.” [The Hill, Floor Action Blog, [2/12/16](#)]

### **Zinke Missed Vote for Calorie Disclosures on Menus on a “Reasonable Basis”**

In February 2016, Zinke missed vote for a: “McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., amendment that would clarify that the bill would allow for calorie disclosures on menus that are made on a ‘reasonable basis,’ as restaurants are required to do under current law, to still be considered as doing so even if the disclosures vary from actual nutrient content, including inadvertent human error, variations in ingredients and serving size and other reasonable variations.” The amendment was adopted by a 309-100 vote. [CQ, [2/12/16](#); H.Amdt.942 to H.R. 2017, Vote 79, [2/12/16](#)]

*NOTE: Zinke appeared to miss votes to attend his son’s state wrestling tournament.*

### **Zinke Missed Vote to Allow Restaurants to Disclose Calorie Information Solely Online if Most Orders Offsite**

In February 2016, Zinke missed vote against a: “Schrader, D-Ore., amendment that would remove the provision in the bill that would allow restaurants or similar retail food establishments to disclose calorie information solely online if the majority of their orders are placed by customers who are offsite.” The amendment was rejected by a 148-258 vote. [CQ, [2/12/16](#); H.Amdt.943 to H.R. 2017, Vote 80, [2/12/16](#)]

*NOTE: Zinke appeared to miss votes to attend his son’s state wrestling tournament.*

### **Zinke Urged Ag. Sec. & Comm. Sec. to Resolve Issues on India’s Recent Regulatory Changes**

“Senator Steve Daines, Senator Jon Tester and Congressman Ryan Zinke are actively working to resolve regulatory barriers that threaten Montana pulse crop producers’ access to international markets. The Montana Congressional delegation sent a letter urging Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Department

of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker to resolve issues surrounding India's recent regulatory changes that will negatively affect Montana pulse producers' ability to export peas, lentils and chickpeas to Indian markets. The delegation is working to preempt the economic hardships that pulse producers may face as a result of reduced access to critical markets abroad." [Office of Sen. Steve Daines, Press Release, [10/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Require Federal Courts to Impose Sanctions on Parties That File Frivolous Civil Lawsuits**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for: "Passage of the bill that would change federal rules governing civil lawsuits to require federal courts to impose sanctions on parties that file frivolous civil lawsuits. The sanctions would need to include monetary payments to the other party to cover the other party's attorney fees and costs. The bill also would eliminate the so-called "safe harbor" clause by removing the ability of parties to withdraw or correct claims considered frivolous within 21 days of filing." The bill passed 241-185. [CQ, [9/17/15](#); H.R.758, Vote 501, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Bill Required Judges To Impose Monetary Sanctions Against Lawyers Who File "Baseless" Lawsuits And Required Compensation To Victims Of Such Suits**

"The House passed legislation on Thursday to require judges to impose monetary sanctions against lawyers who file baseless lawsuits. The bill, passed 241-185, would further require that victims of lawsuits deemed to be baseless receive compensation for any injury resulting from the litigation. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) said imposing the mandatory sanctions would discourage people from filing frivolous lawsuits he described as 'extortionary.'" [The Hill, Floor Action, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Democrats Said Bill Would Increase Clogged Courts, WH Threatened Veto**

"Democrats warned that the measure would ultimately increase litigation since it would create a financial incentive. 'It'll clog the courts with unnecessary litigation, cost money, make it more difficult to get your cases disposed of. It's just unnecessary,' said Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.). The White House issued a veto threat against the bill, calling it 'unnecessary and counterproductive.'" [The Hill, Floor Action, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For The E-Warranty Act**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for the: "Passage of a bill that would change Federal Trade Commission (FTC) rules to allow manufacturers to meet federal warranty requirements by posting warranty information on their websites. Currently, the Disclosure of Written Consumer Product Warranty Terms and Conditions Rule and the Pre-Sale Availability Rule require that written warranties must be clearly written, contain certain information, and be displayed in close proximity to the product or furnished to the consumer prior to sale. The FTC has one year to revise its rules to comply with the bill." The measure passed 388-2. [CQ, [9/9/15](#); S. 1359, Vote 490, [9/8/15](#)]

### **Voted for Regulating Commercial Space Ventures, Exempting Industry from Passenger Safety Regulations for 10-Years**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the SPACE Act of 2015, a bill to regulate the commercial space industry. "Led by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R., Calif.), senior Republican lawmakers supported the bill to extend and update federal protection for commercial launches from some potential liability involving property damage or personal injuries and fatalities on the ground. The legislation, which also effectively bars the Federal Aviation Administration from closely regulating fledgling space-tourism ventures for up to 10 more years, garnered widespread support from closely held companies and industry leaders." The measure passed 284 to 133. [HR 2262, [Vote #262](#), 5/21/15; Wall Street Journal, [5/21/15](#)]

### **Voted for Bureau Advisory Commission Transparency Act**

On April 13, 2015, Zinke voted for: "Neugebauer, R-Texas, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's advisory committees to comply with Federal

Advisory Committee Act requirements, including open-meeting requirements.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 401-2. [CQ, [4/13/15](#); H.R.1265, Vote 146, [4/13/15](#)]

### **Voted for Mandating Private Sector Input On Federal Agency Rules, Expand Judicial Review, & Restrict CFPB Funding**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015. “in a new GOP attempt to roll back federal regulations, the House passed a measure Wednesday aimed at limiting agency rules that impose unfunded mandates. Lawmakers approved the bill 250-173, after adding a provision that would restrict funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau... The main part of the bill (HR 50) would expand and modify the 1995 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (PL 104-4) that requires all federal agencies to consult with the private sector when developing rules... The measure would extend judicial review of agency rules and permit a court to stay, enjoin or invalidate a rule if an agency fails to complete the required UMRA analysis or adhere to the regulatory principles.” The bill passed 250 to 173. [HR 50, [Vote #64](#), 2/04/15; CQ News, [2/04/15](#)]

### **Coalition For Sensible Safeguards: “The Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act Lets Big Business Write The Rules”**

“But the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards (CSS) says the bill would give businesses special access to regulators and block hypothetical future rules without the public knowing. ‘The Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act lets big business write the rules,’ Katherine McFate, president of the Center for Effective Government and CSS co-chair, said in a statement. ‘It doesn’t improve or streamline the regulatory process, which is already plagued by hurdles and delays. This act would make it even more difficult for agencies to implement laws enacted by Congress.’” [The Hill, [1/30/15](#)]

### **HR 50 Cut CFPB Funding By \$36 Million**

“Limits the total budget authority which the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau may request from the Federal Reserve to \$550 million in FY 2016. This limitation is needed to ensure that the CFPB will comply with the requirements contained elsewhere within HR 50 without increasing their drawdown of funds from the federal reserve, which would otherwise add a direct spending cost to the bill. The limitation is set at \$36 million below the CBO baseline projection for CFPB Budget Authority in FY 2016.” [HR 50, Amendment #4, [2/04/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Exempting FDA Consumer Protections from Greater Regulatory Review & Legal Challenges**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against Jackson Lee of Texas Part A Amendment No. 6, an amendment to the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015 that “sought to exempt from the bill all regulations issued by the Food and Drug Administration relating to consumer safety, including those issued pursuant to the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.” HR 527 was a bill under which “the SBA would have new authority to ensure agencies comply with the law’s regulatory review requirements, including by getting more directly involved with agency reviews of proposed rules. It would expand the ability of small businesses and other small entities affected by an agency’s regulations to legally challenge those rules.” The amendment failed 184 to 234. [HR 527, [Vote #66](#), 2/05/15; Thomas.loc.gov, [2/05/15](#); CQ News HR 527 Coverage, [2/05/15](#)]

### **Voted for “Dramatically” Restricting Government’s Ability to Enact New Safety Standards**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for restricting the government’s ability to enact new regulations or safety standards. “The House passed a measure Tuesday to dramatically restrict the government’s ability to enact any significant new regulations or safety standards, potentially hamstringing the efforts of every federal agency, from financial regulators to safety watchdogs. ... The primary way the bill would work is by making just about every step an agency takes on a major new rule subject to numerous legal challenges. It does that by defining major rules as ones that have direct costs of more than \$100 million or indirect costs above \$1 billion, or would have significant costs for just about anyone, including government. Then it requires that for any such rule,

agencies must make public their cost-benefit analyses of the new regulation and choose the cheapest option.” The bill passed 250 to 175. [HR 185, [Vote #28](#), 1/13/15; Huffington Post, [1/13/15](#); CQ Floor Votes, [1/13/15](#)]

### **Law Professor: “Irresponsible Reform: The House Favors Extreme Legislation That Would Delay Public Protections by Ten Years or More.”**

[Center For Progressive Reform Blog, [1/13/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Protecting Public Health & Safety Regulations from Significant Delays**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment exempting public health and safety regulations from the bill’s burdensome requirements on creating new rules. “The House has rejected an amendment sponsored by Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, D-Va., to the Regulatory Accountability Act (H.R. 185) ... Connolly said the exemption was needed to ensure that regulations needed to protect food and drug safety and air and water quality can move forward promptly.” The amendment failed 242 to 177. [HR 185, [Amendment No. 4](#), [Vote #26](#), 1/13/14; Albany Herald, [1/16/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Sharpening Penalties for Consumer Protection Violations**

In February 2011, Zinke voted against legislation that would enhance the penalty for consumer protection violations against elderly persons or persons with developmental disabilities. Zinke said, “Whether you are or not with the moral issue, there is a practical issue of spending money.” The bill passed (41-8). [[SB 57](#), [2/12/11](#); AP, [2/14/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Requiring Transparency Among Auto Insurers**

In February 2011, Zinke voted against legislation that would require insurers that sell motor vehicle liability policies to provide potential customers information that discloses the factors they use to set rates. The bill passed (36-14). [[SB 260](#), [2/23/11](#)]

## **ZINKE ZIDED WITH BANKS, CORPORATIONS OVER MONTANANS**

### **Congressman Zinke is (Probably) a Millionaire**

In his 2016 personal financial disclosure, Zinke reported assets totaling between \$750,000 and \$1,600,000, including several property holdings in Whitefish, a family art collection, and an auto collection that includes a 1938 Cadillac and 2004 Harley Davidson. In this same report, Zinke reported mortgage liabilities that totaled a combined \$200,000 - \$500,000. [U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosure, Filed [5/16/16](#)]

Zinke’s Personal Financial Disclosure is not required to include his personal residence, including vacation homes. [U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosure, Filed [5/16/16](#)]

This filing also does not include some known personal assets that have been registered in the name of his wife, Lola Zinke. This includes a boat that is jointly registered in CA and MT, and an RV that the campaign recently purchased from Lola Zinke for \$59,100. [Coast Guard Vessel Documentation, filed [3/22/16](#); Billings Gazette, [5/30/16](#)]

In a disclosure filed in 2013, Zinke held stocks and other investments valued between \$1,130,009 and \$2,450,000, earning him between \$30,000 and \$96,000 in 2013. [U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosures, Filed [3/3/14](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Opposed Raising the Federal and State Minimum Wages**

During his 2014 campaign for the U.S. House, Congressman Zinke stated his opposition to raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. In 2008, Zinke also indicated that he opposed increasing the state minimum wage. [Helena Independent Record, [4/25/14](#); Project VoteSmart, 2008 [Political Courage Test](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted Twice to Block Consideration of the Paycheck Fairness Act**

Zinke voted twice to block the U.S. House from considering the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that sought to end the pay gap between men and women and ensure equal pay for equal work. [H. Res. 189, [Vote #148](#), 4/14/15; Bloomberg, [4/14/15](#); Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [4/14/15](#); H. Res. 200, [Vote #154](#), 4/15/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [4/16/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted Twice to Cut Funding for Consumer Protection Efforts; a Move that “Lets Big Business Write the Rules”**

Zinke voted two times to restrict funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a move that the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards said “lets big business write the rules.” [HR 50, [Vote #64](#), 2/04/15; CQ News, [2/04/15](#); The Hill, [1/30/15](#); HR 50, Amendment #4, [2/04/15](#); HR 1195, [Vote #167](#), 4/22/15; CQ News, [4/22/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted to Protect Mortgage Lenders Who Discriminate against Service Members, Seniors, and Students**

Zinke voted against protecting the rights of service members, seniors, and students to seek prosecution against predatory and discriminatory bank practices in the home-buying process. [HR 3192, [Vote #539](#), 10/07/15; Democratic Leader – Motions to Recommit, [10/07/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Sided with His Big Bank Donors, Voting to Roll Back Consumer Protections Put in Place after the 2008 Housing Crisis**

Congressman Zinke’s single largest contributor, Fidelity National Financial, has given the Congressman and his PACs a combined \$163,701. Fidelity National is the nation’s largest provider of residential mortgages. [[Center for Responsive Politics](#) accessed 7/5/16]

Congressman Zinke sided with his big bank donors, undermining key provisions of the Dodd-Frank regulations that were put into place to prevent the bad lending practices responsible for the financial crisis of 2008. [The Hill, [11/18/15](#); CQ, [11/18/15](#); HR 1210, Vote 636, [11/18/15](#)]

In April 2015, Zinke voted against preventing convicted, fraudulent mortgage lenders from providing future home loans. [CQ, [4/14/15](#); H.R. 650, Vote 150, [4/14/15](#)]

Zinke voted to relax regulations on high-cost mortgages, voting to provide safe harbor to lending institutions, even if the loan contains terms and features that are harmful to consumers. [CQ, [4/14/15](#); H.R. 650, Vote 151, [4/14/15](#); Office of Rep. Barr, Press Release, [2/27/15](#); Whitehouse.gov, [11/17/2015](#)]

Congressman Zinke voted to allow banks to speculate in securities markets with taxpayer money, delaying the “Volcker Rule.” [HR 37, [Vote #37](#), 1/14/15; Huffington Post, [1/10/14](#); HR 37, [Vote #9](#), 1/7/15; Bloomberg, [1/7/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Had a Leadership Role with an Oil Pipeline Company that had Financial Troubles**

Congressman Zinke held leadership roles with Save the World Air, Inc. (STWA), a Santa Barbara-based company that is a “developer of applied solutions for oil and fuel delivery systems in the multi-billion dollar oil pipeline and diesel engine markets.” [Marketwired, [4/18/12](#)]

In December 2012, Congressman Zinke joined the board of directors of STWA. Zinke exercised his stock options as a director at STWA, purchasing \$46,547 in stock options on May 6, 2014. [Marketwired, [12/14/12](#); SEC, STWA Letter to stakeholders, [5/8/15](#)]

On January 2, 2013, Ryan Zinke became an independent contractor for STWA. Zinke's role was to act as a "State Government Liaison," and to promote branding and marketing efforts on behalf of STWA's pipeline hardware technology. He was paid \$60,000 for one year. [SEC, [1/2/13](#); Marketwired, [4/18/12](#)]

In 2013, *The Deal Pipeline* reported, "Weinberg & Co. PA expressed substantial doubt about Save The World Air Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern, pointing to recurring operating losses and negative operating cash flows since inception, and the company has financed its working capital requirements through the recurring sale of its convertible notes and equity securities." No bankruptcy filings were found. [The Deal Pipeline, 3/26/13]

In 2014, the Employment Development Department of California filed a state tax lien for STWA. The status was listed as "unlapsed" and the filing type as "termination." [California Judgment and Lien Filings, 14733466290, 10/22/14]

### **Congressman Zinke Supported Raising Taxes on Working Families, Giving Tax Breaks to Millionaires and Companies that Outsource**

Zinke supported Rep. Paul Ryan's proposed budget that would lower the top tax rate to 25 percent for the wealthiest taxpayers and raise taxes on middle-class families with children by an average of \$2,000. The plan would also include exemptions on profits that companies make overseas. [Billings Gazette, [4/25/14](#); New York Times, [4/01/14](#); Center for American Progress, [4/1/14](#); Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, [1/31/13](#); Bipartisan Policy Center, [4/1/14](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Expanding Child Care Tax Credits**

Zinke opposed expanding the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and creating tax incentives to encourage low-income students to attend college. [CQ, [3/25/15](#), H. Con Res 27, Vote 139, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted Twice Against Funding for Manufacturing Training and Job Support**

Zinke voted to block consideration of a measure that would support training for manufacturing jobs in career education. He also voted against an increase in funding for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, run by the U.S. Commerce Department, which helps U.S. firms become more competitive in global markets [H.R. 2578, Esty Amendment, [Vote #271](#), 6/02/15; CQ Bill Tracker, [6/02/15](#); H Res 70, [Vote #54](#), 2/03/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [2/03/15](#); Politifact, [9/30/11](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Twice to Block Infrastructure Improvements, Instead Siding with Outsourcing Corporations**

Zinke voted for blocking consideration of a bill to reauthorize the highway trust fund and pay for road, bridge, and highway improvements with fair taxes from corporations that dodge taxes by moving overseas. [H Res 362, [Vote #438](#), 7/15/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [7/15/15](#); HR 3038, [Vote #440](#), 7/15/2015; Democratic Leader – Motions to Recommit, [7/15/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Waffled on His Support of the Export-Import Bank**

On five separate occasions, Zinke voted to block reauthorization or consideration of the Export-Import Bank, an agency that helps finance foreign purchases from U.S. companies. [H Res 319, [Vote #371](#), 6/17/15; USA Today, [7/01/15](#); House Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [6/17/15](#); H RES 449, [Vote #529](#), 10/01/15; Democratic Leader, Previous Questions, [10/01/15](#); H Res 421, [Vote #502](#), 9/17/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [9/17/15](#); HR 420, [Vote #497](#), 9/17/15; Congressional Record, [9/17/15](#), p 30-31; H Res 388, [Vote #483](#), 7/29/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [7/29/15](#)]

However, in October 2015, Zinke voted to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank's charter, through FY 2019. [CQ, [10/27/15](#); H.R. 597, Vote 576, [10/27/15](#)]

Zinke also voted against requiring the Ex-Im Bank's financial statements to follow Fair Value Accounting Principles. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); Amdt. 9 to HR 22, Vote 615, [11/4/15](#)].

### **Congressman Zinke Voted to Jeopardize Social Security Disability Benefits**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for a provision that would weaken the solvency of Social Security, potentially affecting 9 million recipients of disability benefits. [H Res 5, [Vote #6](#), 1/06/15; Politico, [1/20/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Cosponsored and Voted for the Estate Tax Repeal Which Would Benefit the Wealthy and Add to the National Debt**

Zinke cosponsored and voted to repeal the estate tax, the elimination of which would only benefit the top 0.2% of American citizens and would add \$269 billion to the national debt. [CQ, [4/16/15](#); H.R. 1105, Vote 161, [4/16/15](#); Cosponsored [3/3/15](#); USA Today, Editorial, [4/16/15](#); Albuquerque Journal, [4/19/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Protected Bonuses for Wealthy Executives, Even for Companies that Don't Pay Livable Wages**

Zinke voted against preventing companies from claiming tax deductions for executive bonuses surpassing \$1 million if they failed to give their lower-level employees raises to match cost-of-living. [H Res 5, [Vote #5](#), 1/06/15; CQ Floor Votes, [1/06/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted Against Montana's Exports**

In 2015 Zinke said, "I believe fair access to international markets... is absolutely critical to Montana's agriculture industry." Yet, Zinke voted to cut funding to the International Trade Administration by \$312 million in FY 2016. The funding cut would've undermined the ability to fight against unfair subsidies given by foreign governments to their businesses, causing Americans to lose jobs. [Great Falls Tribune, [4/16/15](#); H.R. 2578, McClintock Amendment, [Vote #270](#), 6/02/15; CQ Bill Track, [6/26/15](#); Citizens-Times, [6/05/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Flip-Flopped on TPA; Voted Against Programs to Assist Workers Affected by Trade**

In June 2015, Zinke released a statement about the Trade Priorities and Accountability Act (TPA) that would provide fast-track authorization of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal. In his statement, Zinke claimed that he had maintained "steadfast opposition to the version of TPA the Senate passed in May because he believes President Obama cannot be trusted to make deals on behalf of the American people." However, Zinke reversed course and decided to vote for TPA, claiming that he had improved the bill by adding an amendment that would require Congress to appoint a bipartisan panel to monitor trade negotiations. [Rep Ryan Zinke, [6/16/15](#); Billings Gazette, [6/12/15](#); HR 1314, [Vote #362](#), 6/12/15; HR 2146, [Vote #374](#), 6/18/15; The Hill, [6/18/15](#)]

Zinke voted against reauthorization of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which helps protect and train American workers adversely affected by trade. [HR 1295, [Vote #388](#), 6/25/15; US Department of Labor [Fact Sheet](#); The Hill, [6/25/15](#); CQ News [6/25/15](#)]

## CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY

- ✓ Zinke was caught off guard in a tour of the Great Falls Police Department when he was told of a \$1.5 billion reduction in funding due to budget shortfalls from Congress, and its damage to law enforcement efforts.
- ✓ He voted for the \$51.4B Dept of Commerce & DOJ FY2016 Budget that included underfunding agencies and relaxing gun restrictions. He voted against an effort to provide additional funding for programs on sexual assault, violence against women, and missing and exploited children.
- ✓ He voted to increase FBI salaries and expenses by \$25 million.
- ✓ He opposed the nomination of Loretta Lynch for Attorney General, claiming she supported the President's "unconstitutional executive amnesty."
- ✓ He voted against a bill that would have prohibited texting while driving.
- ✓ He voted against a resolution that would have requested a study to determine ways to reduce childhood health trauma and its long term effects on children.
- ✓ He voted against legislation that would have classified an aggravated DUI as a misdemeanor.
- ✓ He voted against a bill that would have extended possible jail time for certain DUI offenses.
- ✓ He was one of eight Senators who voted against establishing a sobriety program in the Montana Department of Justice.
- ✓ He claimed to support the death penalty in 2008, but then voted twice to abolish it in 2009 and 2011.

### **Admitted He Did Not Know About \$1.5B Reduction in Law Enforcement Programs**

In 2016, Zinke was confronted at on a tour of the Great Falls Police Department. The *Great Falls Tribune* reported, "The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) has frozen the program that allows law enforcement agencies across the country access to funds seized through the federal asset forfeiture program. Local law enforcement leaders expressed concern about that decision to Rep. Ryan Zinke during a tour of the Great Falls Police Department Monday morning. GFPD Chief David Bowen and Lt. Mike Grubb, commander of the Russell County Drug Task Force (RCDTF), explained the small task force relies on money from the equitable sharing program to supplement funding from the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, or HIDTA... Zinke admitted he was unaware of Congress' role in the \$1.5 billion reduction or 'rescission' to the program due to budget shortfalls. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 included a \$746 million permanent rescission, and calls for future forfeiture funds to be deposited in the U.S. general revenue fund, according to summary of the bill. Voting records indicate Zinke voted against the bill. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 included a \$458 million reduction to the DOJ budget, further impacting the program. Voting records indicate Zinke voted for that bill." [Great Falls Tribune, 2/23/16]

### **Zinke Expressed Concern About Changes “Affecting Law Enforcement”**

The report continued, “After the meeting Zinke expressed concern that changes to the asset sharing process would ‘affect law enforcement on the ground.’ He also said he would need to look closer at the issue after hearing the concerns expressed by Bowen and Grubb. According to a statement issued by Zinke’s staff, the congressman voted for reforms that line up with Montana’s recently reformed forfeiture laws, which require a conviction before assets can be seized. ‘Many times these individuals couldn’t afford to pay thousands of dollars in legal fees to recoup their property or money, so they never got it back from the government,’ the statement says. However, Zinke said the nationwide execution of an idea can have unintended local consequences.” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/23/16]

### **Zinke Voted to Support the Use of Body Cameras By Law Enforcement to Increase Transparency**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Goodlatte, R-Va., motion to suspend the rules and adopt a resolution that would recognize the potential for the use of body-worn cameras by on-duty law enforcement officers to improve community relations, increase transparency and protect.” The motion was adopted by a vote of 421-6. [CQ, [6/10/15](#); H.Res. 295, Vote 331, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Voted for Restricting Law Enforcement’s Ability to Gather License Plate Information**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the FY16 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill that would bar funds from being used to acquire a camera for the purpose of collecting or storing vehicle license plate numbers. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 297-129. [HR 2577, [Vote #327](#), 6/09/15; CQ Floor Votes, 6/09/15; Congressional Record, [6/09/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for \$51.4B FY2016 Dept. Of Commerce & DOJ Budget, Including NASA & NIST**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would provide \$51.4 billion in discretionary funds in fiscal 2016 for the departments of Commerce and Justice and other agencies such as NASA and the National Science Foundation. It would provide roughly \$8.2 billion for the Commerce Department and roughly \$27.9 billion for the Justice Department, including \$8.5 billion for the FBI, \$7.2 billion for the federal prison system and roughly \$2 billion for state and local enforcement and crime prevention grant programs. The bill would provide \$18.5 billion for NASA, \$7.4 billion for the National Science Foundation, roughly \$5.2 billion for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and \$3.3 billion for the Patent and Trademark Office.” The bill was passed by a vote of 242-183. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.R. 2578, Vote 297, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Voted for Underfunding Agencies & Relaxing Gun Restrictions**

“Lawmakers approved the \$51.4 billion measure in a 242-183 vote, after adopting amendments regarding gun control, immigration, U.S.-Cuba relations, Guantánamo Bay and marijuana. Passage of the bill came after the White House threatened to veto the legislation because of insufficient funding levels, capped by sequestration, and controversial policy riders that would undermine President Obama’s policy to normalize relations with Cuba, relax gun restrictions and block funds for the transfer of any detainees at Guantánamo Bay prison to the United States.” [The Hill, [6/03/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Motion to Provide Additional Funding for Programs Including Sexual Assault, Violence Against Women & Missing & Exploited Children**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against motion that would provide an additional \$3 million for sexual assault victims assistance within the Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs account and an additional \$3 million for missing and exploited children programs in the Juvenile Justice Programs account. It would decrease funding for the Justice Information Technology Account by \$6 million. The amendment failed, 190 to 232. [HR 2578, [Vote #296](#), 6/03/15; CQ, [6/03/15](#)]

### **Voted for Amendment to Cut Funding in the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill By 2.48%**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that proposed cutting funding in the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill by 2.48%. The amendment failed 134 to 290. [HR 2578, [Vote #292](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [6/03/15](#)]

### **Voted for Preventing NIST from Consulting with NSA or CIA to Change Cryptographic or Computer Standards**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that prevented the National Institute of Standards and Technology from consulting with the NSA or CIA to change cryptographic or computer standards. The amendment passed 383 to 43. [HR 2578, [Vote #290](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [6/03/15](#)]

### **Voted for Preventing the ATF from Banning Some Forms of Armor-Piercing Ammunition & Military Style Handguns**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that prevented the ATF from banning some forms of armor-piercing ammunition and military style handguns. “The Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill, which cruised through the House this week, contains several provisions directed squarely at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’ (ATF) rule-making authority. Under the measure, the ATF would be prohibited from banning certain forms of armor-piercing ammunition or blocking the importation of military-style shotguns. Another provision would block federal agents from creating what critics say is a gun registry ... Among them is the ATF’s proposed — and later withdrawn — ban on certain forms of armor-piercing ammunition used in AR-15 rifles ... Eventually, the ATF relented and pulled back the bullet ban, but the agency left the door open to reconsider the rule in the future. To make sure this doesn’t happen again, Republicans included multiple provisions, authored by Reps. Richard Hudson (R-N.C.) and Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), in the bill barring future action.” The amendment passed 250 to 171. [HR 2578, [Vote #289](#), 6/03/15; On Agreeing to the Amendment, [6/03/15](#); The Hill; [6/05/15](#)]

### **Voted for Amendment Prohibiting DOJ & DEA from Enforcement Actions Against Commercial Hemp Growers**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that prohibited the DOJ and DEA from taking enforcement actions against commercial hemp growers. The amendment passed 289 to 132. [HR 2578, [Vote #288](#), 6/03/15; On Agreeing to the Amendment, [6/03/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment Prohibiting the DOJ from Preventing States From Establishing Their Own Marijuana Rules**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that that would have prohibited the Department of Justice from preventing states from establishing their own rules governing the use, distribution, cultivation or possession of marijuana. “Marijuana advocates have their sights set on legalization after lawmakers approved a number of pot-friendly measures Wednesday in a government spending bill. The marijuana vote-a-rama was capped off by a provision that would prohibit the Department of Justice (DOJ) from interfering with state medical marijuana laws. But it’s a marijuana amendment that was rejected that has pot advocates even more excited. A provision that would have blocked the Justice Department from interfering with state laws permitting the use of recreational marijuana came just a few votes shy of passing. The measure would have essentially ended the federal prohibition on pot, advocates say ... An amendment from Reps. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) and Jared Polis (D-Colo.) would have blocked the DOJ from interfering with any state marijuana law, including laws that permit the recreational use of pot. The provision failed, but not before garnering 206 votes, just a handful shy of the number needed to be approved.” The amendment failed 206 to 222. [HR 2578, [Vote #285](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [6/03/15](#); The Hill, [6/03/15](#)]

### **Voted for Amendment Blocking Federal Funds to Prevent States from Establishing Laws Related to Cannabidiol Oil**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that stopped use of federal funds to prevent states from establishing laws related to cannabidiol oil. “An amendment by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Oregon, that would block federal money from being used to prevent states from allowing the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of industrial hemp also passed. So did an amendment from Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pennsylvania, would prevent federal funds from stopping states from implementing laws relating to cannabidiol oil.” The amendment passed 297 to 130. [HR 2578, [Vote #286](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [6/03/15](#); NBC News, [6/03/15](#)]

### **Voted for Amendment to Prohibit Use of Funds to Compel Journalists to Testify About Information Obtained from Confidential Sources**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that “prohibit[s] the use of funds to compel a person to testify about information or sources that the person states in a motion to quash the subpoena that he has obtained as a journalist or reporter and that he regards as confidential.” [HR 2578, [Vote #284](#), 6/03/15]

### **Voted Against Banning Federal Funds for Discrimination Profiling by Law Enforcement**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, that “prohibits use of funds for law enforcement agencies that engage in discriminatory profiling based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin and also prohibits the use of funds to repeal the December 14 revised profiling guidance issued by the Department of Justice.” The amendment failed 184-244. [HR 2578, [Vote #281](#), 6/03/15]

### **Voted for Amendment to Prevent States from Creating Laws that Authorize Use & Distribution of Hemp Laws**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, that “prohibits the use of funds to prevent a State from implementing its own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of industrial hemp.” The amendment passed 282-146. [HR 2578, [Vote #280](#), 6/03/15]

### **Voted to Increase Funding For FBI Salaries & Expenses by \$25M**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment increasing funding intended for FBI salaries and expenses by \$25 million in the FY 2016. “House Vote 275 Fiscal 2016 Commerce- Justice-Science Appropriations — FBI. Pittenger, R-N.C., amendment that would increase by \$25 million the amount that would be provided for FBI salaries and expenses, and would be offset by an equal reduction to the Legal Services Corporation.” The amendment failed 163 to 263. [HR 2578, Pittenger Amendment, [Vote #275](#), 6/03/15; CQ Bill Tracker, [6/03/15](#)]

### **Voted for Amendment Cutting \$1M from DOJ**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment cutting \$1 million from the Justice Department’ general legal activities. “House Vote 273 Fiscal 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations — Justice Department General Legal Activities. Gosar, R-Ariz., amendment that would reduce funding for Justice Department general legal activities by \$1 million, and increase the spending reduction account by \$1 million.” The amendment passed 228 to 198. [H.R. 2578, Gosar Amendment, [Vote #273](#), 6/02/15; CQ Bill Tracker, [6/02/15](#)]

### **Voted for Amendment to Increase Funding for Mental Health Courts By \$2M**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment increasing funding for mental health courts and adult and juvenile collaborations programs by \$2 million in FY 2016. “House Vote 272 Fiscal 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations — Mental Health Courts and Adult and Juvenile Collaboration Program Grants. Lujan Grisham, D-N.M., amendment that would increase funding for mental health courts and adult and juvenile collaboration program grants by \$2 million, which would be offset by a \$2 million reduction in funding for the Justice

Department's general administration salaries and expenses account." The amendment was adopted 417 to 10. [HR 2578, Grisham Amendment, [Vote #272](#), 6/02/15; CQ Bill Tracker, [6/02/15](#)]

### **Voted for Consideration of Bill Providing for \$51.4B in Funding for DOJ & Commerce, Resulting In Relaxed Gun Restrictions**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 2557 and H.R. 2578. According to CQ Bill Track, "A resolution providing for consideration of HR 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2015, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of HR 2578, bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science and related agencies for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2015, and for other purposes." According to the Hill, "The House on Wednesday passed the fourth of a dozen spending bills for fiscal 2016, funding the Justice and Commerce departments as well as science agencies. Lawmakers approved the \$51.4 billion measure in a 242-183 vote, after adopting amendments regarding gun control, immigration, U.S.-Cuba relations, Guantánamo Bay and marijuana. Passage of the bill came after the White House threatened to veto the legislation because of insufficient funding levels, capped by sequestration, and controversial policy riders that would undermine President Obama's policy to normalize relations with Cuba, relax gun restrictions and block funds for the transfer of any detainees at Guantánamo Bay prison to the United States." The resolution passed 242 to 180. [H. Res. 287, [Vote #268](#), 6/02/15; CQ Bill Track, [6/01/15](#); The Hill, [6/03/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for a Fund to Support Sex Trafficking Victims, & Fund State & Local Investigation**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: "Goodlatte, R-Va., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would authorize a number of programs to combat sex trafficking, particularly sex trafficking of minors. The bill would include provisions that would establish a fund to support trafficking victims, create a new victim-centered grant program to provide assistance to states and local law enforcement to bolster the investigation and prosecution of sex trafficking, and to help victims of such crimes; and bolster the ability of law enforcement to investigate and prosecute sex trafficking, including by targeting individuals who purchase sex from human trafficking victims." The motion was agreed to by a 420-3 vote. [CQ, [5/19/15](#); S. 178, Vote 244, [5/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Lynch Nomination, Said "Simply Holding A Job Does Not Uniquely Qualify Her"**

"Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke weighed in on the pending vote in the U.S. Senate to confirm President Obama's nominee for Attorney General, U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch (NY). [...]The following statement is from Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke. 'Despite Ms. Lynch's legal experience, simply holding a job does not uniquely qualify her for the highest legal officer in the land.'" [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [4/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "Ms. Lynch's Beliefs & Understanding, or Misunderstanding, of the Constitution" Show She "Is Unfit To Serve As Attorney General."**

Zinke said, "Ms. Lynch's beliefs and understanding, or misunderstanding, of the Constitution must be examined thoroughly. That examination was done during Senate hearings and it became clear: Loretta Lynch is unfit to serve as Attorney General." [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [4/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed Lynch Supported the President's "Unconstitutional Executive Amnesty"**

Zinke said, "Her unyielding support for the President's unconstitutional executive amnesty, coupled with her complete disregard for the bounds to the power of the Presidency, demonstrate that she is a questionable pick, at best, to enforce the laws of this country. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to hold true to their oaths to defend the Constitution and vote no on Ms. Lynch's confirmation." [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [4/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Lynch's Support Of "Legal Amnesty" & Executive Action Concerned Him & She Sided With Obama Too Much**

[00:00:58] Zinke: "I don't yield to pressure, only higher principle. And I think you have to look through a lens of what's constitutional and why there's separation of powers. And I respect her experience, but just holding a job is not enough for me. I think her approach is siding too much on the administration and her belief that legal amnesty is appropriate and her belief that this administration's power in the executive, should not be constrained concerns me." [YouTube, One America News Network, [4/22/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Voted Against Requesting Study to Reduce Childhood Trauma**

In April 2011, Zinke voted against a Senate Joint Resolution that would request an interim study for ways to reduce childhood health trauma and its long term effects on children. The resolution passed (43-7). [[SJR 30](#), [4/18/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Requesting Interim Study of Restorative Justice**

In April 2011, Zinke voted against a joint resolution, which requested an interim study on restorative justice for offenders. The resolution passed (45-5). [[SJR 29](#), [4/18/11](#)]

### **Voted Against an Aggravated DUI Being Classified as a Misdemeanor**

In April 2011, Zinke voted against creating the offense of an "aggravated" driving under the influence, which would be classified as a misdemeanor. The bill passed (33-16). [[SB 15](#), [4/07/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Establishing a Sobriety Program in the Department of Justice**

In April 2011, Zinke voted against a House bill, which would establish a 24/7 sobriety program in the Department of Justice. The bill passed (41-8). [[HB 106](#), [4/05/11](#)]

### **Voted Against a Bill to Prevent Homelessness among People Released from Prison**

In March 2011, Zinke voted against a House bill that would have helped homelessness prevention programs for individuals released from Montana state prison and who are under the supervision of the Montana Department of Corrections. The bill failed (23-27). [[HB 446](#), [3/18/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Requiring Sprinkler Systems in Single Family Homes**

In March 2011, Zinke voted to prohibit the Montana building code to require mandatory sprinkler systems in single family homes or a dwelling with less than two units. The bill passed (33-17). [[HB 307](#), [3/10/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Extending the Possible Jail Time for Certain DUI Offenses**

In March 2011, Zinke voted against extending the possible jail time for certain misdemeanor driving under the influence offenses. The bill passed (36-14). [[HB 12](#), [3/28/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Bill to Prohibit Texting While Driving**

In March 2011, Zinke voted against a bill to prohibit texting while driving and then voted to indefinitely postpone the bill. The bill failed (20-29). [[SB 251](#), [3/18/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Allowing Subpoenas and Notices to Be Served by Depositing in Mail**

In March 2011, Zinke voted against a bill, which would have allowed any subpoena, notice of hearing, or other processes in the board of personnel appeals to be served by depositing in the U.S. mail. The bill passed (45-2). [[HB 57](#), [3/05/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Supporting a Parental Rights Amendment**

In February 2011, voted against a Senate Joint Resolution that supported the Parental Rights Amendment and urged the U.S. Congress to submit the Parental Rights Amendment to the states for ratification. The resolution passed (26-24). [[SJR 9](#), [2/10/11](#)]

### **Voted Against a Bill to Require Recording of Custodial Interrogations**

In April 2009, Zinke voted against a House bill that would require the electronic recording of custodial interrogations in felony cases and in youth court cases involving an offense that would be considered a felony if committed by an adult. The bill passed (44-5). [[HB 534](#), [4/02/09](#)]

### **Voted Against Toughening Punishment for Vehicular Homicide Under the Influence**

In April 2009, Zinke voted against adding vehicular homicide under the influence as a crime in which a youth could be charged as an adult in district court. The bill passed (38-12). [[HB 533](#), [4/02/09](#)]

### **Voted Against Raising the Maximum Counties Could Be Reimbursed for Search**

In March 2009, Zinke voted against raising the maximum that county sheriffs could be reimbursed for search and rescue operations. The bill passed (45-4). [[HB 273](#), [3/11/09](#)]

### **Voted to Indefinitely Postpone Bill to Prohibit Texting while Driving**

On March 4, 2009, Zinke voted to indefinitely postpone SB 278. SB 278 would have prohibited hand-held cell phone use and text messaging while driving. The bill was indefinitely postponed (31-8). [SB 278, [3/04/09](#)]

### **Voted Against Having Seatbelt Law Indefinitely Postponed**

In February 2009, Zinke voted against having SB 237 indefinitely postponed. SB 237 would have created tougher seatbelt enforcement for motor vehicle occupants. The motion passed (25-24). [SB 237, [2/05/09](#)]

### **Supported Death Penalty, Then Voted to Abolish It**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support of the death penalty. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **...BUT Voted to Abolish the Death Penalty**

In February 2009, Zinke voted to abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. The bill passed (27-23). [[SB 236](#), [2/17/09](#)]

### **Again Voted to Abolish the Death Penalty**

In February 2011, Zinke again voted to abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. The bill passed (26-24). [[SB 185](#), [2/15/11](#)]

### **Supported Penalties Other than Incarceration for Some Non-Violent Offenders**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for implementing penalties other than incarceration for certain non-violent offenders. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Providing Prison Inmates with Vocational Assistance**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for providing prison inmates with vocational and job-related skills and job-placement assistance when released. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Hate Crime Legislation**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for hate crime legislation. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## DEFENSE

- ✓ Zinke has continually held himself up as an expert on national defense, attacking administration decisions often in the press.
- ✓ Zinke supported cutting the DOD budget through hiring freezes and reforming the acquisitions process.
- ✓ He voted to authorize intelligence and intelligence-related appropriations for FY 2016.
- ✓ He voted against reducing our national nuclear security weapons activity by \$25 million.
- ✓ He voted against a budget plan that prohibited increased war funding to \$94 billion in FY 2016.
- ✓ Zinke was asked “When should America go to war?” He responded, “And, folks, lemme tell you, it is all the dang time.”
- ✓ Zinke voted for the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, providing \$540 billion in defense funding.
- ✓ He voted to conduct NDAA House and Senate conference meetings behind closed doors.
- ✓ Amid the various version of the bill, Zinke voted against a number of good amendments, such as a 2.3% pay raise for troops (though he did vote for the final bill with a 1.3% raise) and continued pay in the case of a government shutdown, and \$5M for Army Medical Research.
- ✓ Zinke also voted for an early version of the NDAA that included a provision allowing concealed carry of firearms on military installations.

### **Zinke Pushed the Need to “Fully Fund Our Military”**

Zinke’s 2016 campaign website read, “Ryan is a decorated veteran, having spent 23 years as a U.S. Navy SEAL. He believes in peace through strength and that America has a responsibility to assist our allies in times of need and carry out humanitarian aid missions. Montana is one of the leading states in the nation with nearly 1 in 10 of us serving in the military. Being the only veteran in Montana’s Congressional delegation, **Ryan knows how important it is to fully fund our military**, provide for our troops and honor our promises to our veterans. That’s why Ryan has continually advocated for giving our troops a pay raise and improving care at the VA and for veterans who live more than 40 miles away from the closest VA facility.” [RyanZinke.com, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

### **Zinke Attacked DoD for Giving Russians Broad Location of U.S. Troops to Avoid Accidental Attack by Russian Airstrikes**

In 2016, Zinke “faulted the Defense Department for revealing the location of U.S. special forces in Syria to the Russian military. ‘I keep on using the word absurd, but I don’t know what else to call it,’ Zinke, a former Navy SEAL commander who sits on the House Armed Services Committee, told the *Washington Examiner*. ‘We’re putting our troops that are in harm’s way at greater risk, there is no doubt in my mind.’” The article went on to note that the U.S. had only given the Russians “broad areas to prevent accidental attack by Russian airstrikes.

However, the report noted, “Zinke warned that Russia could share the information with Assad’s ground forces, or even the Islamic State. ‘Absolutely, if it’s in the best interest of Russia and their allies, of course they’ll disclose where our troops are,’ he said. ‘I don’t know how you can actually conduct operations in a worse manner than this.’” [Washington Examiner, [2/19/16](#)]

### **Zinke Suggested Death in Marjah Was Due to Delay in Backup or “Dereliction of Duty”**

In 2016, after a U.S. special operator was killed in Marjah, Afghanistan, Zinke “asked the Pentagon on Thursday for a formal briefing on the incident after learning from special operators that help for the U.S. forces under fire was delayed due to bureaucratic hurdles and restrictive rules of engagement.” Zinke said, “To think that these guys were abandoned by Washington while they were under fire is unthinkable and frankly against everything the U.S. military stands for... If there was a decision to delay the [quick reaction force] or call off air strikes on enemy combatants after the ground commanders ordered it, that is a clear dereliction of duty.” [Washington Examiner, 1/08/16]

### **Zinke Said DoD Spending Should Be “Held To The Same Level Of Accountability As Any Other Department.”**

“Q: People talk about the public being out of touch with the 1 percent or so who serve in uniform. Is there a cultural divide between veterans and non-veterans in Congress? A: The divide really is practical experience. I think the consensus of Congress is they support the veterans. But supporting the veterans is more than just allocating resources. It is understanding what the veteran faces and understanding priority. Also, just because it is a Department of Defense budget, it shouldn’t get a pass. They have to be held to the same level of accountability as any other department. The military is the largest budget in discretionary spending -- I mean it dwarfs everybody else -- and yet we are running further behind on aircraft carriers, hulls and battlefield technology.” [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

### **“Unprecedented Failure by the Commander-in-Chief to Understand... Navy”**

In October 2012, Zinke called the President’s supposed willingness to cut defense spending an “unprecedented failure by the Commander-in-Chief to understand even the most basic roles and missions of our great Navy.” Zinke said, “His condescending remarks, suggesting that a reduction in our fleet can be compared to having fewer ‘horses and bayonets,’ demonstrates an unprecedented failure by the Commander-in-Chief to understand even the most basic roles and missions of our great Navy.” [Newsmax, [10/24/12](#)]

### **Zinke Scheduled To Address Unmanned Systems Defense Conference, October 29<sup>th</sup> In VA**

“In an effort to support our troops and provide them with education and networking opportunities in unmanned systems technologies, AUVSI is offering free admission to its upcoming Unmanned Systems Defense conference for active duty military personnel in uniform. The conference is set for Oct. 27 to 29 at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City in Arlington, Virginia, with each day dedicated to a specific unmanned systems domain, maritime, air and ground.[...] Ground Day, Thursday, Oct. 29 U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT), congressional address at 9:15 a.m.” [Ulitzer, Inc., [10/15/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Eliminating New Maritime Security Program Funding**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to strip \$500 million in new funding for the Maritime Security Program. According to Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, “This amendment would harm America’s national security. Under the program that it seeks to eliminate, the Pentagon reserves capacity on roughly 60 U.S.-flagged commercial ships to ensure the supply and transport of American troops. It is a program that supports our private sector as well, requiring the Defense Department to contract private commercial ships rather than building their own. So there was not redundancy, but complementary ability. It is a program that enhances America’s national security by ensuring that our military can depend on U.S.-flagged and crewed vessels instead of foreign ones. It is a program that supports important domestic maritime jobs.” The amendment failed 109 to 306. [HR 702, [Vote #545](#), 10/09/15; Amash Amendment, [10/09/15](#)]

### **Zinke On USS Billings & USS Montana: “I Know The Power Of These Ships And Boats, As Well As Their Importance To The U.S. Navy’s Mission.”**

“A crowd of more than 200 people, many of them veterans or active duty Navy and Marine Corps personnel, welcomed Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to MetraPark on Wednesday as he performed one of what he calls ‘my coolest official duties’ — the naming of a pair of naval vessels. [...] Zack Gambill, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke’s director of veterans services, read a letter from Zinke, a 23-year Navy SEAL, in Zinke’s absence. ‘I know the power of these ships and boats, as well as their importance to the U.S. Navy’s mission,’ Zinke wrote. Montana’s lone Member of Congress called it appropriate that the vessels be named to honor Billings and Montana ‘because, like the people of Montana, they are resilient, versatile, help their neighbors in times of need, and these are true warriors, like the people of the nearby Crow Nation.’ [Montana Standard, [9/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Like The People Of Montana, They Are Resilient, Versatile, Help Their Neighbors In Times Of Need, And These Are True Warriors, Like The People Of The Nearby Crow Nation.”**

“A crowd of more than 200 people, many of them veterans or active duty Navy and Marine Corps personnel, welcomed Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to MetraPark on Wednesday as he performed one of what he calls ‘my coolest official duties’ — the naming of a pair of naval vessels. [...] Zack Gambill, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke’s director of veterans services, read a letter from Zinke, a 23-year Navy SEAL, in Zinke’s absence. ‘I know the power of these ships and boats, as well as their importance to the U.S. Navy’s mission,’ Zinke wrote. Montana’s lone Member of Congress called it appropriate that the vessels be named to honor Billings and Montana ‘because, like the people of Montana, they are resilient, versatile, help their neighbors in times of need, and these are true warriors, like the people of the nearby Crow Nation.’ [Montana Standard, [9/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Jade Helm Was Not A “Conspiracy To Intern US Citizens.”**

“00:01:19 ZINKE: Hi Candy. How are you? 00:01:21 CANDY: I’m fine. I’ll go on to the question about Jade Helm that you never got back to us on. And now it’s all in the public for consumption. So what is your view on Jade Helm and I’ll lay down the line. 00:01:41 ZINKE: Okay. Jade Helm is not a conspiracy to intern US Citizens. I have run as a former Seal Commander at Seal Team 6, I’ve run similar exercises. But I would have fired the public affairs officer. Because what they did was, and where are you, where are you going to train? The first time you’re going to train, you know, hopefully isn’t Bagdad or large areas. And the military bases. You’re going to train on base for such things, this does not give you the true look. And the true look is buildings and people, and so you know, I’m a veteran. I strongly support, I strongly support military training. But this, to have, you know, this scenario set up where Texas is enemy territory and those types of things. You know, it was sloppy and the military did not do a great job of looking at it, getting ahead of it and telling, and being transparent and telling people what they’re doing.” [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [7/31/15](#)] (AUDIO)

### **Zinke Said Military Operations Should Have Been “Ahead Of The Curve” In Communicating That There Was An Exercise To The Public**

“00:02:45 HOST: Well, it sounds to me like we have a cool hand Luke moment here. What we have here is failure to communicate. 00:02:52 ZINKE: Well, yeah. And it’s important, but if you stay silent and aren’t transparent then you have a large population of America that doesn’t trust our government. And I don’t trust our government a lot of times. And, so when you have actions of this scale people look at it a go, you know, fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me. You know, I just don’t trust you enough, unless you give me the right information. And in this case, I don’t think the military special operations was as ahead of the curve as it should have been.” [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [7/31/15](#)] (AUDIO)

### **Zinke Supported Cutting DOD Budget by Hiring Freezes & Reforming the Acquisition Process**

In July 2015, Zinke was interviewed on CNN. “KEILAR: Before I let you go, since you are the first Navy SEAL elected to Congress, I want to get your perspective on the plans of the Army to cut 40,000 troops over the next couple of years. ZINKE: You know, I think our active-duty force needs to remain what it is today. If we’re going to cut, let’s cut the bureaucracy. We have over 700,000 DOD employees. You don’t have to fire anybody, but you can atrophy, you can do hiring freezes, you can look at our acquisition process. There’s a lot

of areas within DOD that I think you can reform quickly. But the active-duty strength, I think it's necessary, considering what we face, nation-states, as well as an uncertain future. In this, I absolutely agree with the chairman to come is, is that we face an uncertain world and our force structure needs to be adaptable and to a point where we can address our national security." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [7/9/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Authorize Appropriations For FY 2016 For Intelligence & Intelligence-Related Activities**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: "Nunes, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities, including the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the National Security Agency (NSA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security. The bill would provide authorizations for fighting terrorism, activities in Iraq and Afghanistan, countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, investments in information technology enterprises, surveillance and reconnaissance, and cyber defense. The classified annex, which specifies the funding levels and personnel ceilings for each intelligence program, is only available to members." The motion was agreed to by a vote of 364-58. [CQ, [12/1/15](#); H.R. 4127, Vote 649, [12/1/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Consider FY 2016 Appropriations For Intelligence And Intelligence-Related Activities**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: "Adoption of the rule (H Res 315) that would provide for House floor consideration of a bill (HR 2596) that would authorize classified amounts in FY 2016 for 16 U.S. intelligence agencies and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. government. The rule would also allow for a motion to reconsider the vote on the question of concurring in the matter of Title II (Trade Adjustment Assistance) as late as July 30, 2015." The rule was adopted 236-189. [CQ, [6/16/15](#); H.Res. 315, Vote 366, [6/16/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Opposed Cutting Aviation Funding Below 2016 Proposed Budget**

"The Marine Corps' top aviator took to Capitol Hill in a plea to protect funding he called critical to the service's ability to maintain and modernize its taxed aircraft fleet, which is still reeling from the effects of massive 2013 budget cuts. [...] If funding levels dip below the fiscal 2016 proposed budget, he warned, it will become impossible to meet current and future threats from abroad. That would be unacceptable said several lawmakers, including former SEAL Team 6 member Rep. Ryan Zinke, a Montana Republican, who retired as a Navy commander. In the face of an aggressive China and 'a Russia trying to rekindle Soviet Union dominance,' the nation must support efforts to keep existing aircraft deployable and speed the rate at which we procure new technology, he said. The Chinese are able to take things from blueprint to fielding in just a few years — something it can take the U.S. nearly 20 years to do under the current procurement process, he added." [Marine Corps Times, [6/5/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Consider the DoD Appropriations Bill & the Country of Origin Labeling Amendments Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: "Adoption of the rule (H Res 303) that would provide for House floor consideration of the fiscal 2016 Defense appropriations bill (HR 2685) and a bill (HR 2393) that would repeal country of labeling requirements for beef, pork and chicken sold in the United States." The rule was adopted by a vote of 244-187. [CQ, [6/10/15](#); H.Res. 303, Vote 330, [6/10/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Reducing National Nuclear Security Weapons Activity By \$25M**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the energy and water development funding bill that reduce the Atomic Energy Defense Activities National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities Account by \$25 million and to apply the savings to the spending reduction account. "The first amendment the National Nuclear Security Administration's Weapons Activities Account for the W80-4 Life Extension Program by \$25,000,000, applying this savings to deficit reduction. This technology is used in our Long Range Stand Off (LRSO) weapon." The amendment was rejected 149 to 272. [H.AMDT.181, [Vote #204](#), 4/30/15; Congressional Documents, 5/01/15]

### **Voted Against Reducing National Nuclear Security Administration Funding By \$167 Million**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the energy and water development funding bill that would apply \$167,050,000 to the savings reduction account for the new nuclear arm cruise missile. “Quigley, D-Ill., amendment that would reduce the National Nuclear Security Administration weapons activities by \$167 million and transfer the same amount to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected 164 to 257. [H.AMDT.181, [Vote #203](#), 4/30/15; CQ [4/30/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Cutting OCO Funding For Military Construction Projects**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against the second Mulvaney amendment that prevented the use of funds under the Pentagon’s Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account for Defense military construction projects. “Reps. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee, and Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.), a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, offered an amendment to strike provisions of the bill for military construction projects that use funds from the Pentagon’s war fund, known as the Overseas Contingency Operations account.” The amendment failed to pass 190 to 231. [HR 2029, [Vote #186](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [4/29/15](#); The Hill, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment That Prevented Use Of OCO Funds For Air Force Construction Projects**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against the first Mulvaney amendment that prevented the use of OCO funds for Air Force construction projects. “Mick Mulvaney, a South Carolina Republican, and Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat running for Senate, are joining forces to block a series of Pentagon spending increases that underpin the GOP’s spending strategy this year ... they could jeopardize a \$38 billion Pentagon boost that GOP leaders used to woo support from defense hawks ... Mulvaney and Van Hollen plan to propose amendments to strike every penny of OCO money not used for war from here on out, including in Defense and State department bills ... The Mulvaney-Van Hollen duo’s test vote Thursday night showed they still have some support work to do. The three Mulvaney-Van Hollen amendments would have eliminate \$530 million of OCO money that’s supposed to be used for construction projects on military bases and installations.” The amendment failed to pass 192 to 229. [HR 2029, [Vote #185](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [4/29/15](#); Politico, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Mulvaney Amendments Cut \$530 Million In Funds Under Pentagon’s Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Account For Military Construction Projects**

“Mick Mulvaney, a South Carolina Republican, and Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat running for Senate, are joining forces to block a series of Pentagon spending increases that underpin the GOP’s spending strategy this year ... they could jeopardize a \$38 billion Pentagon boost that GOP leaders used to woo support from defense hawks ... Defense funds were supposed to be frozen below caps laid out in a 2011 deficit-reduction law. But GOP leadership planned to dole out an extra \$38 billion for the Pentagon using OCO, which isn’t subject to the caps ... The three Mulvaney-Van Hollen amendments would have eliminate \$530 million of OCO money that’s supposed to be used for construction projects on military bases and installations.” [Politico, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment That Prevented Use Of OCO Funds For Navy And Marine Corps Construction Projects**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against the Van Hollen amendment that prevented the use of OCO funds for Navy and Marine Corps construction projects. “Mick Mulvaney, a South Carolina Republican, and Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat running for Senate, are joining forces to block a series of Pentagon spending increases that underpin the GOP’s spending strategy this year ... they could jeopardize a \$38 billion Pentagon boost that GOP leaders used to woo support from defense hawks ... Mulvaney and Van Hollen plan to propose amendments to strike every penny of OCO money not used for war from here on out, including in Defense and State department bills ... The Mulvaney-Van Hollen duo’s test vote Thursday night showed they still have some support work to do. The three Mulvaney-Van Hollen amendments would have eliminate \$530 million of OCO money that’s supposed to be used for construction projects on military bases and installations.” The amendment failed to pass 191 to 229. [HR 2029, [Vote #184](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [4/29/15](#); Politico, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Budget Plan That Prohibited Increased OCO Defense Spending Without Offsetting Cuts**

In March 2015, Zinke voted against a budget that would set funding for the Overseas Contingency Operations war funding account at \$94 billion in FY2016. This budget plan “would have required offsets over \$73.5 billion in the OCO fund, which pays for wars and other overseas activities and is not subject to sequester caps.” The amendment failed 105 to 319. [H Con Res 27, [Vote #140](#), 3/25/15; US News, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Keeping Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War On Terrorism Function at \$94B**

On March 25, 2015, Zinke voted against a: “substitute amendment that would provide for \$2.935 trillion in new budget authority in fiscal 2016, not including off-budget accounts. It would assume \$5.5 trillion in reduced spending over the next 10 years - including by assuming repeal of the 2010 health care law and proposing reduced spending on Medicare and Medicaid and changing programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It would assume future savings by calling for restructuring Medicare into a ‘premium support’ system beginning in 2024. It also would call for a deficit-neutral overhaul of the tax code that would lower rates and it would assume \$147 billion in additional savings through “dynamic scoring,” and would include instructions to committees to trigger the budget reconciliation process to cut mandatory spending. The resolution would call for fiscal 2016 discretionary spending that adheres to the sequester-reduced defense and non-defense caps set by the Budget Control Act, but for future years it would assume a 10-year increase in defense caps of \$387 billion while calling for cutting non-defense caps by \$759 billion. For fiscal 2016, it would propose adding \$36 billion more than the president requested for the uncapped Overseas Contingency Operations war funding account, but would call for \$20.5 billion of that amount to be offset by other spending cuts.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 105-319. [CQ, [3/25/15](#); H. Con Res 27, Vote 140, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for Increasing the Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War On Terrorism By \$2B**

On March 25, 2015, Zinke voted in favor of a: “substitute amendment that would provide for \$2.937 trillion in new budget authority in fiscal 2016, not including off-budget accounts. It would assume repeal of the 2010 health care law; and propose reducing spending on Medicare and Medicaid and changing programs such as food stamps. It would call for restructuring Medicare into a “premium support” system beginning in 2024, call for a deficit-neutral overhaul of the tax code that lowers rates and assume savings through “dynamic scoring,” and recommends instructions to committees to trigger the budget reconciliation process to cut mandatory spending. The resolution would call for fiscal 2016 base discretionary spending that adheres to the sequester-reduced defense and non-defense caps set by the Budget Control Act, and for future years it would assume a 10-year increase in defense caps of \$387 billion while calling for cutting non-defense caps by \$759 billion. For fiscal 2016 it would propose adding \$38 billion more than the president requested for the Overseas Contingency Operations account, and would not call for an offset.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 219-208. [CQ, [3/25/15](#), H. Con Res 27, Vote 141, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Without Congress Military Funds Would, “Cut The Teeth Out Of Our Forces” But Urged Cutting Bureaucracy**

“Unless Congress steps up, military branches will be trimmed to levels that ‘cut the teeth out of our forces,’ he said. The navy now has 287 ships, a level not seen since 1917, he said. ‘Ronald Reagan wanted a 600-ship navy,’ the navy veteran said. Army troop strength is ratcheting down to 1939 levels, he noted, a year when America’s army ranked 17th in the world in size — ‘right next to Romania.’ Still, Zinke called for cutting the military’s bureaucracy and making the chain of command more direct.” [Billings Gazette, [3/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke Was Skeptical That House Republican Budget Proposal Did Enough To Increase Defense Spending**

“U.S. House Republicans on Tuesday proposed higher defense spending and deep cuts to social services including healthcare for the poor in an aggressive new budget plan that seeks to eliminate deficits by 2024. Price’s plan could struggle to gain the support of deeply divided House Republicans. It seeks to skirt ‘sequester’ spending caps, nominally keeping them in place to please deficit hawks while boosting military spending by

adding nearly \$40 billion to an off-budget war funding account. Pro-military Republicans greeted the plan with skepticism. ‘I’m not convinced this budget does it,’ said Representative Ryan Zinke, a former Navy Seal commander.” [Reuters, [3/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said America Should Go To War All The Time When Asked When It Was Appropriate To Do So**

Jeb Lund wrote in a column for *The Guardian*: “I eventually leave the room and start heading to the other side of the Gaylord, where former UN Ambassador John Bolton, Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton and Montana Representative Ryan Zinke answer the question: “When Should America Go to War?” And, folks, lemme tell you, it is all the dang time.” [The Guardian, Jeb Lund Column, [2/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Exempting Fed. Regs. Aimed At Halting Nuclear Proliferation from New Rulemaking Requirement**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would “would provide exemptions for rules and regulations that stop the proliferation, spread or development of nuclear weapons” from the new rulemaking requirements in HR 527, under which “the SBA would have new authority to ensure agencies comply with the law’s regulatory review requirements, including by getting more directly involved with agency reviews of proposed rules. It would expand the ability of small businesses and other small entities affected by an agency’s regulations to legally challenge those rules.” The motion failed, 182-240. [HR 527, [Vote #67](#), 2/05/15; CQ News, [2/05/15](#), [2/05/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “The Acquisition Process In The Military Is Broken”**

“Q: Do you support the significant cuts to Defense Department headquarters staffing in the proposed 2015 defense budget? A: The acquisition process in the military is broken. You have major weapons systems that are 17 years old before they’re fielded. Imagine having a cell phone that is 17 years old. The rate of technology is moving faster and we need to move at the speed of our competitors, and we’re not. What happens is you have these programs where you try to over-test and remove all the risk. It goes through a labyrinth of these desks whose only purpose is to say ‘no.’ Now, we have the F-35 and other major weapons systems where the turnaround rate is too long. When we were kids, if you got something military it was cutting edge. Now, cutting edge rarely is in the military. You have to remove some layers, incur some risk and have some accountability.” [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Military Acquisition Process Was “Process-Centric” And Need To Become “Outcome-Centric”**

“Several congressmen have pledged support for U.S. naval aviation while noting the stress that naval aviation and the sea services in general are under in meeting the nation’s defense commitments in a budget-constrained environment. [...] ‘The world is not getting any safer and the equipment to defend our country is not getting any cheaper,’ Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., a retired SEAL. Noting that some weapon systems are tanking 15 to 20 years to field, he said acquisition has ‘become process-centric. We need to become outcome-centric.’” [Seapower, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Amendment Directed USAF Brief Committee on Locations of Air National Guard C-130 Units**

“The House Armed Services Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee approved by voice vote its portion of the fiscal 2016 Defense authorization bill, sending to the full committee a measure that supports the Pentagon’s request for two Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, two Virginia-class submarines and three Littoral Combat Ships, but recommends cuts to the KC-46 tanker and the long-range strike bomber. During the five-minute markup of the authorization bill (HR 1735), the panel adopted by voice vote an amendment from Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., that directs the Air Force to brief the full committee on current and future locations of Air National Guard C-130 units equipped with the Modular Airborne Firefighting System.” [CQ News, [4/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Pushed For The C-130s In Great Falls To Have Firefighting Capabilities**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke stopped at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post on 10th Avenue South on Friday. A handful of veterans chatted with him about ISIS, firefighting and C-130s, women in the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs. [...] Zinke is pushing for firefighting capabilities for the C-130s assigned to the 120th Airlift Wing in Great Falls. He said that he wants to ensure the C-130s have a viable mission in Montana. Since there are no ground troops in Great Falls, he said it’s expensive for the C-130 to travel to other locations to ferry troops.” [Great Falls Tribune, [5/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Proposed An Amendment to FY 2016 NDAA to Assess the Locations Of C-130 Military Airborne**

“Last week, the House Armed Services Committee advanced a Zinke amendment that will now go to a full vote as part of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Bill. The amendment directs the secretary of the Air Force to prepare a brief to the committee by Sept. 1 that assesses the locations of C-130 Military Airborne Firefighting Systems. The MAFFS program is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Defense provides the C-130 aircraft. Eight MAFFS exist in the U.S. and are operated by four C-130 units. Those units are listed on the Forest Service website and have been the same since the MAFFS program was established in 1973, according to the Forest Service. Those units are the 153rd Airlift Wing of the Wyoming Air National Guard in Cheyenne; the 145th Airlift Wing of the North Carolina Air National Guard in Charlotte; the 146th Airlift Wing of the California Air National Guard in Port Hueneme; and the 302nd Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserve at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.” [Great Falls Tribune, [5/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said That It Made “No Sense” To Have The MAFFS Sit On The East Coast When Fires Are In The West**

“A Forest Service spokeswoman told the Tribune last week that the Forest Service has no current plans to go beyond eight MAFFS units. Zinke said that it ‘makes no sense’ to have the MAFFS sit on the East Coast when fires are in the west. He said he’s prefer those MAFFS are moved to Great Falls.” [Great Falls Tribune, [5/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Would Work to Ensure That Contracts For Commercial Fleets That Supplement The MAFFS Would Be Expedited**

“The MAFFS provide surge capability and augment the commercial fleet that the Forest Service contracts for wildfire suppression and the Forest Service formally requests C-130 support from the Department of Defense. Commercial contracts are a current concern and Zinke said he would work with the Forest Service and Congress to ensure that contracts can be expedited. ‘We quickly run out of commercial assets,’ he said.” [Great Falls Tribune, [5/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Military Should Use More Hays Military Operations Airspace for Training**

“Zinke also said the military should use more of Montana’s big sky, such as the Hays Military Operations Airspace, about 60 miles north of Great Falls. ‘Montana has a huge amount of airspace that should be made available for training,’ he said. Zinke, and Sens. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and Steve Daines, R-Mont., opposed the expansion of the Powder River Training Complex in southeastern Montana. The delegation has expressed concerns about the impact on local air traffic and restricting airspace, but the Air Force is continuing to work with the Federal Aviation Administration to mitigate those conflicts and announce any military exercises in advance. Zinke said he’d like to see more use of the Hays MOA, which was previously the primary training space for the 120th’s F-15s. But the C-130s use the space less often since there’s no cargo drop zone and the C-130s can train closer to Great Falls. Zinke said he’d be opposed to restricting Montana airspace, including the Hays MOA.” [Great Falls Tribune, [5/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Keeping A-10 Attack Jet Flying Another Year**

“The House Armed Services Committee voted early Thursday morning to keep the A-10 attack jet flying another year, as the panel marked up its 2016 defense policy bill. An amendment, proposed by Rep. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.), would prohibit the Air Force from taking any moves to retire the plane, something it has been trying to do for several years under budget constraints. [...] Other veterans on the committee jumped into

the fray, with retired Navy SEAL Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.) arguing there was not yet an adequate replacement for the A-10. ‘You don’t cut your main chute if you don’t know what your reserve looks like,’ he said.” [The Hill, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Require Secret Service to Extend Drone Protections on the White House**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Goodlatte, R-Va., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would require the Secret Service to extend their protection of the White House, especially in regard to defense against unmanned drones. The bill includes provisions that would authorize the director of the Secret Service to undertake measures to improve training and hire additional Secret Service agents, require Senate confirmation of the Secret Service director, and make it a crime for objects to enter into restricted buildings or grounds, as well as to threaten to kill, kidnap or harm the vice president or his family for up to six months after leaving office.” The motion passed by 365-16. [CQ, [7/27/15](#), H.R. 1656, Vote 468, [7/27/15](#)]

### **FY 2016 NDAA**

#### **Zinke Voted for NDAA Funding \$540B Defense Budget & \$58.8B for Overseas Contingency Operations**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Thornberry, R-Texas, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that, as amended, would authorize \$599 billion in discretionary funding for defense programs in fiscal 2016, including \$540 billion for the base defense budget (including \$18.5 billion for national security programs at the Energy Department) and \$58.8 billion for overseas contingency operations. The bill would authorize roughly: \$209 billion for military operations and maintenance, \$8.1 billion for military construction, \$138.8 billion for military personnel, and \$31.8 billion for the Defense Health Program. The measure also would effectively allow for an across-the-board 1.3 percent pay increase for military personnel. It also would authorize \$715 million for security assistance to Iraqi forces fighting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). It would overhaul the military retirement system to blend the current all-or-nothing annuity benefit with a matching Thrift Savings Plan. The measure would place new restrictions on the ability of the president to transfer prisoners from the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center to third-party countries.” The motion passed by 370-58. [CQ, [11/5/15](#), S.1356, Vote 618, [11/5/15](#)]

#### **Zinke: “President Vetoed [the NDAA] In Order to Use Our Troops as a Bargaining Chip for More Spending in Domestic Agencies Like the EPA & IRS.”**

“Today the President vetoed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in order to use our troops as a bargaining chip for more spending in domestic agencies like the EPA and IRS. This is the first time in our nation’s history the president vetoed the NDAA as a ploy to get more funding in other areas. The NDAA gives our troops what they need to win. This is not a game. People’s lives are on the line. This is a dereliction of duty by a Commander in Chief – our troops deserve more. Our troops deserve to know that the Commander in Chief has their back. And when the Commander in Chief does not, it’s a signal that the blood we have shed doesn’t matter.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [10/22/15](#)] (VIDEO)

#### **Zinke Spoke About POTUS Veto Of 2016 NDAA On The House Floor**

“Today I rise in opposition of the President’s view, and I ask my colleagues to override it. I come before this body not only as a representative from the great state of Montana, but also a former Commander of SEAL Team Six and a former Deputy Acting Commander of Naval Special Warfare Efforts in the Persian Gulf. The job of the Commander in Chief is bound by the Constitution to support the troops, to be the leader, and yet this President vetoes a bipartisan bill to defend our country. I talk not only as a former Commander, but also a father. My daughter is a Navy diver and my son-in-law is an active duty Navy SEAL. My wife watched her daughter, her husband, her and son-in-law all deploy. I have seen the consequences of war. I’m probably the last individual that would advocate for war. I have seen the consequences and the pain. But when we go to war, the Commander in Chief is obligated to make sure we go to war to win. He has to make sure that our troops have the right training, the right equipment, and the right leadership to win decisively on the field of battle. And before this Commander in Chief sends them into harm’s way, it is his obligation and duty to make sure that we know the conditions to bring them home. His actions today are a dereliction of his duty. It affects every soldier,

sailor, airman, and marine in harm's way. A veto and subsequent continuing resolution causes harm to our troops. I call garrisoning where our troops don't train. Our fleet can't go in and receive the maintenance necessary. And above all, it gives a message to the troops that are in harm's way that their Commander in Chief does not have their back. This isn't a Republican or Democrat issue. This is an American issue because it is America's sons and daughters that we put in harm's way, and it is the obligation of a great nation to make sure that when we do that, we give them everything they need to come home safely." [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [10/23/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Said POTUS Was "Holding The [Defense Bill] Hostage" And Was "Willing To Put Our National Offense At Risk For Political Folly."**

"President Barack Obama is 'willing to put our national offense at risk for political folly' with his threats to veto a \$612 billion defense bill passed by Congress earlier this month, Rep. Ryan Zinke told Newsmax TV on Wednesday. 'I do not understand,' Zinke, a Montana Republican who sits on the House Armed Services Committee, told 'Newsmax Now' host John Bachman. 'As the commander-in-chief, he is obligated to defend this country first and foremost. 'By vetoing this bill — it's not over policy, it's not over funding lines, it's over holding the [defense bill] hostage so it can raise other parts of the budget,' he said. [...] Zinke, a former Navy SEAL who is in his first congressional term, told Bachman that Obama's veto threat is especially worrisome as the world grows more volatile and war becomes an increasing possibility in the Middle East and other regions. 'I'm probably the last person who wants to go to war because I've seen it,' he said, 'but if we choose and have to go war, we want to make sure the troops have the right equipment, the right training and the right rules of engagement to win decisively on the field of battle.'" [Newsmax, [10/21/15](#)]

### **Voted For Defense Authorization Bill**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for "a conference report to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 1735) that would authorize \$604.2 billion for discretionary defense spending, including \$515 billion for discretionary spending subject to sequester-reduced spending caps for FY 2016 for the base defense budget and \$89.2 billion for the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)." The bill passed, 270-156. [CQ Floor Votes, [10/01/15](#); HR 1735, [Vote #532](#), 10/01/15]

### **Bill Included 1.3% Military Pay Raise**

"The bill includes a host of military pay and benefits authorizations, and would allow Obama to set the 2016 military pay raise at 1.3 percent." [Military Times, [10/01/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Shifting \$38B from OCO Account to Defense Base Budget**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that "would transfer \$38.3 billion from the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account to the Department of the Defense based budget by striking the requirement that the administration treat these funds as emergency war funding." The motion failed, 186-241. [CQ Floor Votes, [10/01/15](#); HR 1735, [Vote #531](#), 10/01/15]

### **Zinke Said 2016 NDAA Included 'A Pay Raise for Our Troops'**

In October 2015, Zinke said: 'While Russia is sending troops to Syria, our own President has promised to veto the important defense budget which includes a pay raise for our troops.'" [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [10/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Transferring \$38.3B from Overseas Contingency Operations to the DoD-Based Budget**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: "Smith, D-Wash., motion to recommit the bill to the House Armed Services Committee with instructions to report back to the House with an amendment that would transfer \$38.3 billion from the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account to the Department of the Defense based budget by striking the requirement that the administration treat these funds as emergency war funding." The motion was rejected by a vote of 186-241. [CQ, [10/1/15](#); H.R. 1735, [Vote 531](#), [10/1/15](#)]

### **Democrats And The White House Wanted To Put The \$38 Billion Into The Pentagon's Base Budget**

“The House passed the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act Thursday, setting up a veto showdown with the Obama administration. [...] The White House and Democrats oppose the bill because it would authorize spending levels in accordance with a Republican plan to boost defense spending, but leave federal spending caps in place on nondefense spending. The bill would authorize \$612 billion for the Defense Department — the same amount the White House has requested — but it would leave budget caps, known as sequester, in place and funnel \$38 billion through a war fund not subject to the caps. The White House wants Congress to lift the caps on both defense and nondefense spending, and instead put the \$38 billion into the Pentagon's base budget.” [The Hill, [10/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Authorize \$604.2B Discretionary Defense Spending**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of a conference report to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 1735) that would authorize \$604.2 billion for discretionary defense spending, including \$515 billion for discretionary spending subject to sequester-reduced spending caps for FY 2016 for the base defense budget and \$89.2 billion for the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO).” The bill was adopted by a vote of 270-156. [CQ, [10/1/15](#); H.R. 1735, Vote 532, [10/1/15](#)]

### **Democrats And The White House Opposed The Bill Because It Left Federal Spending Caps In Place On Nondefense Spending**

“The House passed the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act Thursday, setting up a veto showdown with the Obama administration. [...] The White House and Democrats oppose the bill because it would authorize spending levels in accordance with a Republican plan to boost defense spending, but leave federal spending caps in place on nondefense spending. The bill would authorize \$612 billion for the Defense Department — the same amount the White House has requested — but it would leave budget caps, known as sequester, in place and funnel \$38 billion through a war fund not subject to the caps. The White House wants Congress to lift the caps on both defense and nondefense spending, and instead put the \$38 billion into the Pentagon's base budget.” [The Hill, [10/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Defense Budget Also Includes... Bolstering The Mission At Malmstrom”**

“Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke today voted to approve the Conference Report to H.R. 1735, the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a joint compromise between the House-passed version and Senate version that were passed earlier this year. [...] ‘Providing adequate funding and programs for the military should not be a partisan issue, and I’m happy the House and Senate were able to come together to craft a defense budget that works for our men and women in the military,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘In addition to a pay raise for our troops and expanded childcare for military moms and dads, this year’s defense budget also includes important pieces for Montana, like bolstering the mission at Malmstrom with the Tactical Response Force Alert Facility and updating our nuclear capabilities. I’m also very happy to see my provision, the SEMPER FI Act, was included to address the security vulnerabilities at military recruitment centers so the tragedy that happened in Chattanooga, Tennessee, is never repeated.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called POTUS NDAA 2016 Veto Threat “Shameful Political Posturing” And “Below The Office Of The Presidency.”**

“Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke today voted to approve the Conference Report to H.R. 1735, the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a joint compromise between the House-passed version and Senate version that were passed earlier this year. [...] Yesterday, President Obama promised to veto the bipartisan NDAA as a way to advance his domestic agenda across other agencies. Rep. Zinke blasted the announcement saying, ‘The job of Commander-in-Chief is to take care of our soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines, but the President would rather play politics and veto the defense budget that gives our troops a pay raise and childcare. It’s shameful political posturing at the expense of our troops and is below the Office of the Presidency.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Close House & Senate Conference Meetings on NDAA**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: “Thornberry, R-Texas, motion that the meetings of the conference between the House and the Senate on HR 1735 (National Defense Authorization) may be closed to the public at such times as classified national security information may be discussed, provided that any sitting member of Congress shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the conference.” The bill was passed 402-12. [CQ, [7/7/15](#); H.R. 1735, Vote 390, [7/7/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Block Defense Funds for START Treaty Until Obama Certified Russian Forces Out Of Ukraine**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Lamborn, R-Colo., amendment that would bar funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for the Defense Department in fiscal 2016 from being used to implement the New START treaty until the president certifies that Russia’s armed forces are ‘no longer illegally occupying Ukrainian territory,’ as well as certain other certifications.” The amendment passed 235-182. [CQ, [5/5/15](#); Amdt. No. 27 to H.R. 1735, Vote 234, [5/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Relocating Funding Authorization For Ballistic Submarine Missiles**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against: “Blumenauer, D-Ore., amendment that would relocate funding authorization for the next ballistic missile submarine from the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund to traditional Navy accounts.” The amendment failed 43-375. [CQ, [5/15/15](#); Amdt. No. 32 to H.R. 1735, Vote 235, [5/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Remove The Lesser Prairie Chicken & The American Burying Beetle from the Endangered Species List**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Lucas, R-Okla., amendment that would prohibit the listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened or endangered species until 2021. The amendment also would de-list the American burying beetle as a threatened or endangered species.” The amendment passed 229-190. [CQ, [5/15/15](#); Amdt. No. 38 to H.R. 1735, Vote 236, [5/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For Placing Limits On Funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Programs For Dismantling Nuclear Weapons**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against: “Nadler, D-N.Y., amendment that would strike a section of the bill that would place limits on the use of funding authorized for the National Nuclear Security Administration in fiscals 2016 through 2020 for dismantlement of nuclear weapons.” The amendment failed 178-242. [CQ, [5/15/15](#); Amdt. No. 41 to H.R. 1735, Vote 237, [5/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Setting A 2.3% Pay Increase for Members of the Uniformed Services & Continued Pay in the Event of a Gov. Shutdown**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against: “Gallego, D-Ariz., motion to recommit the bill to the House Armed Services Committee with instructions to immediately report back with an amendment that would set a 2.3 percent pay increase in fiscal 2016 for members of the uniformed services. It also would direct the Defense secretary to take all steps necessary to ensure that Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps members continue to be paid despite any lapse in appropriations after Sept. 30, 2015.” The amendment failed 184-234. [CQ, [5/15/15](#); H.R. 1735, Vote 238, [5/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Introduced An Amendment To Prohibit Reducing The Alert Posture Of The US Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Force**

“This week the House of Representatives is considering the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and amendments. While the following amendments may or may not make it to the floor for debate by the full House of Representatives, here are three of the most notable amendments to the NDAA on offer: [...] The Bad: Amendment 210, introduced by Rep. Ryan Zinke (Montana), Rep. Kevin Cramer (North Dakota), and Rep. Adrian Smith (Nebraska) would prohibit reducing the ‘alert posture’ of the US intercontinental ballistic missile

(ICBM) force, in essence asking that the US continue its Cold War mentality indefinitely.” [National Priorities Project, Budget Matters Blog, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for \$604B Defense Authorization Bill**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would authorize \$604.2 billion in discretionary funding for defense programs in fiscal 2016, including \$89.2 billion for overseas contingency operations, of which \$38.3 billion would be authorized for non-war base budget operations and maintenance. Excluding the war funding, the bill would authorize roughly: \$136.6 billion for operations and maintenance, \$109.7 billion for procurement, \$136.4 billion for military personnel, \$7.3 billion for military construction and family housing, \$68.4 billion for research, development, testing and evaluation, and \$31.7 billion for the Defense Health Program. The measure would place new restrictions on the ability of the president to transfer prisoners from the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center to third-party countries and would continue existing prohibitions against transferring such detainees to the United States or its territories. The measure would authorize roughly \$10 billion for ballistic-missile defense, prohibit the proposed retirement of A-10 close air support aircraft, and effectively block an additional Base Realignment and Closure round. The measure also would authorize \$715 million for security assistance to Iraqi forces fighting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) but would require that 25 percent of the funds be provided directly to Kurdish Peshmerga and quasi-independent Sunni forces. The measure would authorize \$600 million to train and equip Syrian opposition forces and \$200 million for lethal weapons to Ukraine.” The bill passed 269-151. [CQ, [5/15/15](#); H.R. 1735, Vote 239, [5/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Was Interviewed “On Point With Tomi Lahren” And Discussed POTUS Vetoing The 2016 NDAA, Iran Negotiations, Iraq And Syria.**

[YouTube, On Point with Tomi Lahren, [6/24/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **2015: Zinke Delivered The Republican Response To The President’s Weekly Address.**

[YouTube, House Republicans, [6/20/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Claimed Harry Reid Said the 2016 NDAA Was a “Waste Of Time” Because the President Threatened to Veto It**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President’s weekly address: “Good morning. My name is Ryan Zinke. I’m proud to hail from the great state of Montana, and humbled to be the first Navy SEAL to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. I was a SEAL for 23 years, but these days, I’m a military dad. Our daughter is a Navy diver, our son-in-law is an active duty SEAL. I take our constitutional duty to provide for the common defense seriously and personally. So you can imagine how I felt when Senator Harry Reid said recently that supporting a bill to help our troops was a ‘waste of time.’ He was talking about a plan that provides the resources for critical medical supplies, food, body armor, and ammunition. This plan also gives our troops a pay raise. A raise that I think we can all agree they’ve earned. But because President Obama threatened to veto the bill, Senator Harry Reid thought it was all a ‘waste of time.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Democrats Were Holding the 2016 NDAA “Hostage” Because They Wanted More Money For The IRS And The EPA**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President’s weekly address: “You’re probably wondering, ‘why would the president threaten to veto a bill supporting our troops?’ Well, it actually has nothing to do with national security. You see, the president and his party want more money for big government agencies like the IRS and the EPA. And in order to get it, they plan to hold our troops hostage. I’m afraid there’s more. Not only are Democrats set in blocking a pay raise for our troops, but if they don’t get more money for the IRS and EPA, they intend to shut down the entire federal government.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Democrats Intended “To Shut Down The Entire Federal Government.”**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President’s weekly address: “You’re probably wondering, ‘why would the president threaten to veto a bill supporting our troops?’ Well, it actually has nothing to do with national security. You see, the president and his party want more money for big government agencies like the IRS and the EPA. And in order to get it, they plan to hold our troops hostage. I’m afraid there’s more. Not only are Democrats set in blocking a pay raise for our troops, but if they don’t get more money for the IRS and EPA, they intend to shut down the entire federal government.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Democrats Would Vote “Against Our Troops” To “Win More Money For Their Washington Bureaucracies.”**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President’s weekly address: “Members of the President’s party have lost sight of this. They will actually vote against our troops and try to win more money for their Washington bureaucracies. How can they explain that at a 4th of July parade or military ceremony? That’s what I’d like to know. Mr. President, I appeal to you as Commander-in-Chief to stop this game your party is playing with our national security. It’s dangerous and it’s wrong. Do the right thing. Help give our troops the resources they need and the pay they deserve. God bless America, and God bless the men and women who defend her.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “No Price Can Be Attached To The Sacrifices Of The Men And Women In Uniform Are Willing To Make.”**

In June 2015, Zinke delivered the Republican response to the President’s weekly address: “Taking care of our troops should be our top priority, but it isn’t on the Democrats’ to-do list right now. They’ve lost sight of American values in favor of Washington politics. To think President Obama still has no strategy to defeat and destroy ISIS, yet his party has a strategy to get more money for the IRS. I’ve been to war. I know the consequences and sacrifice it takes. If we must fight, we fight to win. We need to make sure our troops have the right equipment, the right training, and the rules of engagement to win decisively on the field of battle. And when we send our troops to war, we need a plan to make sure we bring them home safely. Making sure our men and women are safe on the battlefield and are well taken care of when they get home, that’s the least we can do. No price can be attached to the sacrifices of the men and women in uniform are willing to make.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/20/15](#)]

### **Voted For FY16 Defense Appropriations Bill**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for legislation to “provide \$578.6 billion in discretionary funding for the Defense department in fiscal 2016. The total would include \$490.2 billion in base Defense department funds and \$88.4 billion for the Overseas Contingency Operations account, and would provide that \$37.5 billion in OCO funding be used in support of base budget requirements. The bill would provide roughly \$218.8 billion for operations and maintenance, approximately \$116.7 billion for procurement, approximately \$67.9 billion for research and development and \$133.2 billion for military personnel, including a 2.3 percent pay raise. It also would provide roughly \$31.7 billion for the Defense Health Program. The measure would provide \$715 million for security assistance to Iraqi forces fighting the Islamic State and at least \$600 million to aid Jordan in its fight against that group. It also would provide \$600 million to continue training and equipping moderate Syrian opposition forces and would appropriate \$200 million for lethal weapons for Ukraine. As amended, the bill would bar use of funds by the National Security Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency to mandate that a company alter products or services to permit electronic surveillance of users, except for mandates or requests authorized under the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act.” The bill passed 278-149. [HR 2685, [Vote #358](#); CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

### **Bill Added \$38 Billion Above The Budget Caps Created By The Sequester**

“The House on Thursday approved this year’s spending bill for the Pentagon in a 278-149 vote. Passage of the \$579 billion bill came after the White House threatened a veto of the legislation over insufficient

funding levels and controversial policy riders that would prohibit funds from being used to transfer detainees imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay to the United States. It also passed despite heavy opposition among Democrats and some conservatives over the use of a war fund to boost defense spending next year. Republicans added \$38 billion to the war fund to give the Pentagon spending above the budget caps created by the sequester, but they left the limits in place for nondefense spending. Democrats and the White House want the sequester lifted in full.” [The Hill, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against \$5 Million For Army Medical Research**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against “an additional \$5 million for the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command to implement congressionally-directed medical research programs and an additional \$2 million for the Operation and Maintenance Army account. It also would provide an additional \$2 million for the Operation and Maintenance Defense-Wide account and reduce funding for that account by \$9 million.” The motion to recommit failed 186-240. [HR 2685, [Vote #357](#); CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Restricting Use Of Funds To Query A Collection Of Foreign Intelligence Information Acquired Using A United States Person Identifier**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Massie, R-Ky., amendment that would restrict use of funds to query a collection of foreign intelligence information acquired under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 using a United States person identifier. The amendment also would bar use of funds by the National Security Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency to mandate that a company alter products or services to permit electronic surveillance of users, except for mandates or requests authorized under the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act.” The amendment passed 255-174. [CQ, [6/11/15](#); Massie Amdt. to H.R. 2685, Vote 356, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting Funds To Provide For Defense Counsel For Any Foreign Detainee At The Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Smith, R-Mo., amendment that would prohibit use of funds to provide for defense counsel for any foreign detainee at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention facility.” The amendment was rejected in the Committee of the Whole by 133-297. [CQ, [6/11/15](#); H.Amdt.500 to H.R.2685, Vote 355, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting The Use Of Funds For Contractors That Willfully And Repeatedly Violate The Fair Labor Standards Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Ellison, D-Minn., amendment that would prohibit use of funds for contractors that willfully and repeatedly violate the Fair Labor Standards Act. The prohibition would last for five years.” The amendment was rejected in the Committee of the Whole by 187-242. [CQ, [6/11/15](#); H.Amdt.499 to H.R.2685, Vote 354, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Transfer Mine-Resistant Ambush Vehicles From The Department Of Defense To Local Law Enforcement Agencies**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against the prohibition of “funds to transfer mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles from the Defense Department to local law enforcement agencies.” The amendment failed, 166-262. [HR 2685, [Vote #353](#); CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **The Pentagon Has Transferred Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles To Law Enforcement Agencies In Recent Years**

“Here at The Watch, we’re looking for the smallest town in America to acquire an MRAP, or Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected armored personnel vehicle. For the past few years, the Pentagon has been giving these vehicles to police departments across the country. The unwieldy behemoths have little real application in domestic police work. They’re designed for use on a battlefield. (The Pentagon offers no

training to police departments when it gives the vehicles away. And they've been known to tip over.)” [Washington Post, [4/18/14](#)]

#### **Voted Against Prohibiting Funding For Army Aircraft Combat Uniforms**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would have prohibited the “use of funds to procure any Army aircrew combat uniforms.” The amendment failed, 51- 378. [HR 2685, [Vote #352](#); CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Prohibiting Transfer Of Flash-Bang Grenades To Local Law Enforcement**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would “prohibit use of funds to transfer flash-bang grenades from the Defense Department to local law enforcement agencies.” The amendment failed, 165-265. [H.R. 2685, [Vote #351](#), 6/11/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Prohibiting Navy From Divesting Or Transferring Search And Rescue Units From Marine Corps**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would “prohibit use of funds by the Navy to divest or transfer any search and rescue units from the Marine Corps.” The amendment failed, 81-347. [H.R. 2685, [Vote #350](#), 6/11/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting Funds To Establish Live-Fire Range, Training Course, or Maneuver Area Within The Northern Marianas Islands**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Sablan, D-N. Marianas, amendment that would prohibit use of funds to establish any live-fire range, training course, or maneuver area within the Northern Marianas Islands.” The amendment failed 173-256. [CQ, [6/11/15](#); H.Amdt.486 to H.R. 2685, Vote 349, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting Use Of Funds Pursuant To The 2002 Authorization For Use Of Military Force Against Iraq**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Lee, D-Calif., amendment that would prohibit use of funds pursuant to the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq.” The amendment failed 165-264. [CQ, [6/11/15](#); H.Amdt.484 to H.R. 2685, Vote 348, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting Funds Pursuant To The 2001 Authorization For Use Of Military Force After December 2015**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Lee, D-Calif., amendment that would prohibit use of funds pursuant to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force after Dec. 31, 2015.” The amendment failed 157-270. [CQ, [6/11/15](#); H.Amdt.482 to H.R. 2685, Vote 347, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting Funds After March 2016 for Operation Inherent Resolve Absent Authorization of Military Force Against ISIS**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Schiff, D-Calif., amendment that would prohibit use of funds after March 31, 2016 for Operation Inherent Resolve absent enactment of a law that authorizes the use of military force against the Islamic State before that date.” The amendment failed 196-231. [CQ, [6/11/15](#); H.Amdt.479 to H.R. 2685, Vote 346, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Allow Secs. Of Defense And State To Continue To Waive Certain Restrictions On Aid To Pakistan**

In June 2015, Zinke vote against the: “Poe, R-Texas, amendment that would strike subsection (b) of section 9015, which allows the secretary of Defense, in consultation with the secretary of State, to waive certain restrictions on aid to Pakistan by certifying in writing to congressional defense committees that it is in national security interest to do so.” The amendment was rejected 114-318. [CQ, [6/10/15](#); Poe Amdt. to H.R. 2685, Vote 344, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Eliminating \$600M Appropriated for the Syria Train And Equip Fund**

In June 2015, Zinke vote against the: “Clawson, R-Fla., amendment that would eliminate the \$600 million appropriated for the Syria Train and Equip Fund and transfer the savings to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected 107-323. [CQ, [6/10/15](#); Clawson Amdt. to H.R. 2685, Vote 343, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Eliminating \$715M Appropriated for the Iraqi Train And Equip Fund**

In June 2015, Zinke vote against the: “Nolan, D-Minn., amendment that would eliminate the \$715 million appropriated for the Iraqi Train and Equip Fund and transfer the savings to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected 56-375. [CQ, [6/10/15](#); Nolan Amdt. to H.R. 2685, Vote 342, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Barring Defense Sec. from Expending Funds for Existing Projects Under The Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund**

In June 2015, Zinke vote against the: “Walberg, R-Mich., amendment that would strike provisions under the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund that allows the secretary of Defense to expend funds appropriated for existing projects under the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund.” The amendment was adopted 233-199. [CQ, [6/10/15](#); Walberg Amdt. to H.R. 2685, Vote 341, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Reducing Funding For Defense Wide Operations**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment “that would reduce the Defense-wide operation and maintenance account by \$430 million.” The amendment failed, 117-315. [CQ Floor Votes, [6/10/15](#); HR 2685, [Vote #340](#), 6/10/15]

### **Voted For Ending Prohibition On Funds For Sea Based Deterrence Fund**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an “amendment that would strike section 8122 of the bill, which bars funds from being transferred to the National Sea Based Deterrence Fund.” The amendment passed, 321-111. [CQ Floor Votes, [6/10/15](#); HR 2685, [Vote #339](#), 6/10/15]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funds From Being Used To Transfer Any Individual Detained At Guantanamo Bay To Any Other Foreign Country**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Nadler, D-N.Y., amendment that would strike section 8102 of the bill, which bars funds from being used to transfer any individual detained at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the custody or control of the individual’s home country or any other foreign country except in accordance with the fiscal 2014 defense authorization act.” The amendment failed 181-251. [CQ, [6/10/15](#); Nadler Amdt. to H.R. 2685, Vote 338, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funds From Being Used To Construct Or Modify Any Facility In The U.S. To House Guantanamo Bay Detainees**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Nadler, D-N.Y., amendment that would strike section 8101 of the bill, which bars funds from being used to construct, acquire or modify any facility in the United States, or its territories, to house Guantanamo Bay detainees for purposes of imprisonment.” The amendment failed 173-259. [CQ, [6/10/15](#); Nadler Amdt. to H.R. 2685, Vote 337, [6/11/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Defense Approps To Transfer Or Release Guantanamo Bay Detainees Within The United States, Or Its Territories**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Visclosky, D-Ind., amendment that would strike section 8100 of the bill, which bars funds from being used to transfer or release within the United States, or its territories, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee held at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 174-257. [CQ, [6/10/15](#); Visclosky Amdt. to H.R. 2685, Vote 336, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Striking Measure To Require Including U.S. Coal For Heating At U.S. Defense Installations Overseas**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment “that would strike section 8053 of the bill, which would require the secretary of the Air Force to implement cost-effective facility heating agreements in the Kaserlauthern Military Community in Germany provided that such agreements include U.S. coal as the base load energy for municipal district heat at U.S. defense installations.” The amendment passed, 252-179. [HR 2685, [Vote #335](#), 6/10/15]

### **Voted Against Increasing Funding For Defense Wide Operations**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment “that would reduce the Army’s operation and maintenance funding by \$3 million and increase Defense-wide operations and maintenance by a net \$2 million.” The amendment was rejected, 195-237. [CQ Floor Votes, [6/10/15](#); HR 2685, [Vote #334](#), 6/10/15]

### **Zinke Supported House NDAA for Providing “Critical Medical Supplies, Food, Body Armor, Ammunition”**

In June 2015, Rep Ryan Zinke wrote: “I’ve only been in Congress for six months and I cannot believe what Senator Harry Reid said. Last week, Harry Reid said that passing a national defense spending bill was a ‘waste of time.’ I couldn’t disagree more. This bill provides the funds for critical medical supplies, food, body armor, ammunition and more. Taking care of our troops and making sure they have all available resources to stay safe on the battlefield should be priority number one for Congress. Unfortunately, for Harry Reid’s party, it’s not even on the short list. Senator Harry Reid didn’t just say it was a ‘waste of time’ though; he is even encouraging his followers in the House and the Senate to vote against the bill in an effort to get more funding for big government agencies like the EPA and the IRS. Last week, I proudly voted for a defense funding bill that gives our troops the resources they need and the pay raises that they deserve. Unfortunately the reach of partisan politics in this city even overshadows fundamental American values like keeping our soldiers, airmen, marines and sailors safe at a time when ISIS is on the rise, and the President has admitted he has no strategy to defeat the terrorist organization.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Newsletter, Accessed [6/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “The #NDAA Strengthens National Defense, Bars GITMO Transfers... & Protects Our Troops Abroad.”**

In June 2015, Zinke tweeted: “The #NDAA strengthens national defense, bars GITMO transfers, maintains @341MissileWing ICBMs & protects our troops abroad.” [Twitter, @RepRyanZinke, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Daily Chronicle: “Zinke Asked If A Veto Of The [NDAA] Would Affect The [FLIR Systems] Growth.”**

“Montana’s U.S. Sen. Steve Daines and Congressman Ryan Zinke met with a high-tech company Wednesday morning to discuss factors leading to economic growth in Bozeman. The Republican lawmakers received a guided tour of FLIR Systems from Kevin Tucker, vice president of surveillance, and Randy Equall, vice president of laser systems and scientific materials. [...] Daines and Zinke were pleased to see and hear about the company’s success. Daines asked if the company was under pressure to move away from Bozeman, and Zinke asked if a veto of the National Defense Authorization Act would affect the company’s growth. The answer to both questions was no, not really. ‘You couldn’t do this anywhere else,’ Equall said.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [8/20/15](#)]

### **Voted For FY16 NDAA**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act “that authorizes \$612 billion in government funding for programs at the Department of Defense.” The bill passed, 269-151. [NBC News, [5/15/15](#); H.R 1735, [Vote #239](#), 5/15/15]

### **Bill Allowed Concealed Carry Of Firearms On Military Installations**

“The U.S. House passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for the 2016 fiscal year on Friday, including an amendment that would allow military base commanders to authorize the concealed carry of firearms on military installations.” [KVUE, [5/15/15](#)]

### **Bill Placed Restrictions On President To Transfer Prisoners From Guantanamo Bay**

“The measure would place new restrictions on the ability of the president to transfer prisoners from the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center to third-party countries and would continue existing prohibitions against transferring such detainees to the United States or its territories.” [CQ Floor Votes, [5/15/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Ensuring Pay Raise For Service Members & That They Were Paid During Government Shutdown**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to recommit that would ensure a 2.3% pay increase for fiscal year 2016 for servicemembers and would ensure that servicemembers are paid in the event of a government shutdown. [HR 1735, [Vote #238](#), 5/15/15]

### **Voted Against Striking Provision Placing Limits On Funding Used To Dismantle Nuclear Weapons**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would “strike a section of the bill that would place limits on the use of funding authorized for the National Nuclear Security Administration in fiscals 2016 through 2020 for dismantlement of nuclear weapons.” The amendment failed, 178-242. [H.R 1735, [Vote #237](#), 5/15/15; CQ Floor Votes, [5/15/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Requiring Funding For Replacement Submarines To Come From Navy Accounts Rather Than Sea-Based Deterrent Fund**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would “require funding for the Navy’s new Ohio-class replacement submarines to come from their traditional Navy accounts, instead of the Sea-Based Deterrent Fund...” The amendment failed, 43 to 375. [H.R. 1735, [Vote #235](#), 5/15/15; Congress.gov, accessed [5/26/15](#)]

### **Amendment Would Transfer Funds From Sea-Based Deterrent Fund To Navy’s Budget**

The amendment would also “[transfer] funds from the Sea-Based Deterrent Fund back into their historic Navy budget lines.” [Congress.gov, accessed [5/26/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Reduction In Naval Operations**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment reducing from 11 to 10 the statutory requirement for the number of operational carriers that the U.S. Navy must have. The amendment failed, 60- 363. [HR 1735, [Vote #228](#); CQ Floor Votes, [5/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Retiring Helicopter Sea Combat Squadrons 84 & 85**

“The defense authorization bill the House will debate this week includes a provision from a congressman and retired Navy SEAL that prevents the Navy from disestablishing Helicopter Sea Combat Squadrons 84 and 85. These U.S. Navy Reserve squadrons use the HH-60H Rescue Hawk helicopter and are responsible for training SEALs. HSC-84 is based at Chambers Field at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., and HSC-85 is based at Naval Air Station North Island, Calif. Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), a former SEAL task force commander who established the Naval Special Warfare Advanced Training Command, said he didn’t want to see these two squadrons retired ‘until dedicated units have been identified and have been well trained to pick up the responsibility.” [U.S. Naval Institute, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Helicopter Sea Combat Squadrons 84 And 85 Were The “Only Option For SEAL’s To Train,” Claimed Cuts Were Proposed For Budgetary Reasons**

“This is the only option for the SEALs and [explosive ordnance disposal units] to train,’ Zinke said during the House Armed Services Committee markup of the bill on April 29. ‘Retiring them without identifying what the replacement is – and I’ve talked to the [chief of naval operations], he agrees that there are replacement aircraft,

he agrees there will be a plan to replace the mission with [new] aircraft – that requires training, it requires fast rope training and qualifications, and until those assets are identified and they’re trained I’m asking that we not retire these.’ Zinke said during the markup that the cuts were proposed for budgetary reasons.” [U.S. Naval Institute, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Navy: “Continued, Yet Limited, Special Operations Support To Address Combatant Commander Priorities Will Still Be Achievable”**

“Navy spokeswoman Lt. Cdr. Nicole Schwegman told USNI News that, ‘while I am unable to discuss pending legislation, the current fiscal environment mandated that all assets be scrutinized, funding prioritized and capabilities optimized to meet mission requirements. After careful review, the Navy determined that continued, yet limited, special operations support to address combatant commander priorities will still be achievable with the remaining HSC squadrons.’ USNI News understands that, though the Navy pays for these squadrons, the training requirement comes from U.S. Special Operations Command which, particularly in light of tight budgets, was comfortable with finding alternate means to provide that training if HSC 84 and 85 were disestablished.” [U.S. Naval Institute, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke’s Office: “Zinke Believes That Losing This Capability And Not Having A Legitimate Alternative In Place Would Jeopardize Special Operation Forces”**

“Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift told USNI News that the congressman disagrees that an appropriate alternative is in place. ‘Zinke is fighting to keep the helicopter squadrons because they are highly specialized teams that exclusively support special operations,’ she said. ‘Zinke believes that losing this capability and not having a legitimate alternative in place would jeopardize Special Operation Forces’ ability to properly train forces and carry out high-risk missions.” [U.S. Naval Institute, [5/13/15](#)]

## **GROUND TROOPS**

### **Zinke Did Not Recommend Sending More U.S. Ground Troops To Iraq Or Syria But Would Loosen What He Said Are Overly Restrictive Rules Of Engagement In The War**

“A U.S. congressman and former Navy SEAL more than six feet tall, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.) was at perhaps one of the few places where he wouldn’t stick out in his service dress blues — Arlington National Cemetery. [...] Zinke’s hard-won experience colors his criticism of the president’s strategy to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Zinke does not necessarily recommend sending more U.S. ground troops to Iraq or Syria, as some other critics have suggested, but would loosen what he says are overly restrictive rules of engagement in the war for the 3,500-plus U.S. troops in Iraq who are now fighting it. He said ISIS is aware of the U.S.’s rules of engagement, and their fighters know how to avoid getting hit. That combined with having to get Iraq’s permission before engaging targets is making it easier for ISIS fighters to get away. ‘I’m concerned we are putting forces into harm’s way without the rules of engagement advantageous to win,’ he said. ‘In order to prosecute war, you have to take some risk.’ He said he is the ‘last person’ to advocate going to war. But when you have to, he added, you want to make sure troops have the right equipment, the right training and the right rules of engagement. ‘Putin drops bombs. We drop leaflets.’ [The Hill, [12/13/15](#)]

### **On Taking On ISIS, Zinke Said “I Don’t Want To See Our Sons And Daughters Fight Unless We’re Willing As A Country To Give Them Everything They Need To Win.”**

“One man said leaders in Washington have failed to recognize ISIS as the biggest threat to national security. Zinke talked about the importance of sending troops only with support and backing from the country.’ I don’t want to see our sons and daughters fight unless we’re willing as a country to give them everything they need to win,’ Zinke said. ‘Decisively.’” [KTVQ, [3/15/15](#)]

**Zinke Said The Authorization To Fight Al Qaeda Was Enough For The President To Send An Additional 450 Troops Into Iraq To Fight ISIS.**

BLITZER: "We're back with Congressman Ryan Zinke of Montana. He's member of the House Armed Services Committee. He's a former Navy SEAL commander. He served in Iraq. And we're talking about the president's decision to send up to another 450 U.S. troops to Iraq to train and advise local forces on the front lines in the battle against ISIS. What do you make of the fact, Congressman, there is still no congressional authorization that has been passed in the Senate or the House authorizing the president to use military force in this new war against ISIS?" ZINKE: Well, the present authorization is sufficient to do anything the president..." BLITZER: "The authorization after what, after 9/11?" ZINKE: "That he's operating right under now." BLITZER: "So, you think that's enough?" ZINKE: "It is." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Said An Authorization Of Force Was Not Required To Fight ISIS, Claimed The President Had "All The Powers He Needs To Fight And Win This War."**

BLITZER: "Because there are a lot of your colleagues in the House and the Senate who don't think that is enough, that that was to fight al Qaeda. This is not al Qaeda." ZINKE: "Well, the consensus is, it is enough. What the president asked -- and I was in a room when the White House counsel came over -- is he asked for that -- for his ability to be restricted, because, in his mind, you can fight it from over the horizon. So, he actually asked Congress to further restrict his ability to fight. And, as a former Navy commander, is that I think we deserve to make sure our troops that we put in harm's way have a full array of rules of engagement. And what you have don't want to do is tie one hand behind their back or restrict their ability to fight. I think we deserve and our troops to have everything made available to them so they can fight and win decisively on the field of battle." BLITZER: "So, when you hear like senators like Tim Kaine of Virginia, Jeff Flake of Arizona, a Democrat, Republican, say, we need legislation authorizing the use of military force, you say that authorization is already there, new legislation is not necessary?" ZINKE: "That's my belief. The president has all the powers. He needs to fight and win this war." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/10/15](#)]

**On ISIS, Zinke Said War Was The Last Resort But That It Would Take "A Force Package On The Ground" From The U.S. To Defeat Them. "It Will Take Our Sons And Daughters To Embed With Coalition Forces."**

"A former Navy Seal commander and current congressman told a town hall crowd Friday that the U.S. can't defeat a group like ISIS without being fully committed to the fight. 'War is a last resort, but ISIS is evil — it's a war within Islam,' U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., told a crowd of about 75 people at Rocky Mountain College. 'It is going to take a force package on the ground, and it's going to take the U.S. to do it. It will take our sons and daughters to embed with coalition forces.'" [Billings Gazette, [3/13/15](#)]

**Zinke: "The Problem With Putting Light Troops In Is That What If One Of Our Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines Get Captured? If You Don't Put Sufficient Force In Where They Can't Defend Themselves, Then You're Put In Position Where They Are Going To Be Burned Alive In A Cave."**

BLITZER: "The administration says the policy is, the mission is to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIS. Do you see that happening?" ZINKE: No, no, you could another 1,000 troops in. The problem with putting light troops in is that what if one of our sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines get captured? If you don't put sufficient force in where they can't defend themselves, then you're put in position where they are going to be burned alive in a cave. You also need medevac. If one of our guys gets hurt, you have got to get them out within an hour. You also need logistics. So, if you going to degrade and defeat ISIS, that package, that force package has to be sufficient to defend itself and get the job done. The problem is, is, if you take ISIS territory, and the only result is you are going to cede it to an Iranian-influenced Shia militia, what's the point? Our policy has to change. We have to look at what we are going to do with Syria. Are we going to accept a regime change? Are we're going to move to a regime change? And what are we going to do about an ever-increasing Iranian influence?" [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/10/15](#)]

**Zinke: “If We Are Going To Degrade And Defeat ISIS, I Think, At The Core Of It, We Have To Change Our Tactics On The Ground.”**

BLITZER: “Because they announced today, the Pentagon, the White House, another 450 U.S. troops will go out to Iraq, but they’re not going to Baghdad. They’re going to the front lines. And what worries me is a force protection is -- as you call it in the military, force protection will largely be dependent on the Iraqi military. Can you depend on the Iraqi military to protect those 450 U.S. advisers who are going out there?” ZINKE: “You know, I think the troops deserve the best equipment on the battlefield, the best training, and American armor if they get in trouble. You look at Benghazi, what happened, is we didn’t have a quick reaction force of our weight to go in and help these guys. And the same situation is at risk here. Again, if we are going to degrade and defeat ISIS, I think, at the core of it, we have to change our tactics on the ground.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Said “I Don’t Want My Kids [...] To Fight for Foreign Oil”**

In March 2014, in a Republican primary debate at Montana State University, Zinke said that “I don’t want my kids, and I can say my kids, to fight for foreign oil.” Zinke said, “I’m a fight or go home guy. And when we fight, we fight. But when we do fight, we figure out how to bring our kids home. And my concern, among other things, is energy independence. I don’t want my kids, and I can say my kids, to fight for foreign oil, when we have it here. It’s a national imperative. We can be energy independent in five years, and we should and we can.” [YouTube, accessed [5/13/14](#)]

**SPECIAL FORCES**

**Zinke: “This Is The Longest Period Of Sustained Combat Operations In History By Almost Double.”**

“A U.S. congressman and former Navy SEAL more than six feet tall, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.) was at perhaps one of the few places where he wouldn’t stick out in his service dress blues — Arlington National Cemetery. [...] Zinke has filled almost half his staff with veterans. In his Washington, office, of 18 staffers, six are veterans, and they are receiving a Navy fellow next week. Zinke, who has commanded over 3,500 special operations forces in Iraq, also reflected on the demands on young troops today — who he said have faced ‘far more combat experience’ than those before them, in terms of tours, time away, and the strain on their families. ‘This is the longest period of sustained combat operations in history by almost double,’ he said. ‘The force is strained but not broken.’ He also said believes that the U.S. has fallen into a trap of using special operations forces ‘to solve every problem.’ ‘Special ops isn’t the answer to everything. Special ops is not the main guard,’ he said.” [The Hill, [12/13/15](#)]

**Zinke Was Concerned The “U.S. Has Fallen Into A Trap Of Using Special Operations Forces ‘To Solve Every Problem.’**

“A U.S. congressman and former Navy SEAL more than six feet tall, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.) was at perhaps one of the few places where he wouldn’t stick out in his service dress blues — Arlington National Cemetery. [...] Zinke has filled almost half his staff with veterans. In his Washington, office, of 18 staffers, six are veterans, and they are receiving a Navy fellow next week. Zinke, who has commanded over 3,500 special operations forces in Iraq, also reflected on the demands on young troops today — who he said have faced ‘far more combat experience’ than those before them, in terms of tours, time away, and the strain on their families. ‘This is the longest period of sustained combat operations in history by almost double,’ he said. ‘The force is strained but not broken.’ He also said believes that the U.S. has fallen into a trap of using special operations forces ‘to solve every problem.’ ‘Special ops isn’t the answer to everything. Special ops is not the main guard,’ he said.” [The Hill, [12/13/15](#)]

**Zinke Said The 50 U.S. Special Operators Being Sent To Syria Would Not “Shift The Momentum” In The Region, And Was Concerned They Would Be “Put In Harm’s Way Without Sufficient Support In Terms Of Security.”**

“Q: The president sent 50 U.S. special operators to Syria. How can they shift the momentum of the war? A: I don’t see where 50 operators is going to shift the momentum. My concern is the operators are going to be put in harm’s way without sufficient support in terms of security, medevac and a quick-reaction force that’s near or co-located. And being farther from the front lines also has a downside. The people you are trying to motivate to fight don’t see that there’s a commitment to it. That has been one of the failures of this administration, that our allies don’t see us as committed.” [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

**Zinke Opposed POTUS Plan To Put 50 Special Operations Forces In Syria Because It Did Not “Give Our Troops All Of The Support And Resources Needed To Win And Win Decisively On The Field Of Battle.”**

In October 2015, Zinke posted: “I do not support the President’s plan to put 50 Special Operations Forces in Syria. I’ve said before and I’ll say again that we need to give our troops all of the support and resources needed to win and win decisively on the field of battle. The President’s plan lacks those critical resources including medical teams and quick reaction forces and puts American lives in direct danger.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [10/30/15](#)]

**Zinke Sponsored A Resolution To Commemorate October As Special Operations Appreciation Month**

In September 2015, Zinke sponsored: “A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 2015 as Special Operations Forces Appreciation Month in order to honor members of United States Special Operations Forces for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States.” [CQ, Accessed [9/17/15](#); H. Res 423, Sponsored 9/16/15, Introduced [9/16/15](#)]

**Zinke: “[SEAL Team Six] Looked At Possible Missions. We Looked At Advancing Tactics, Techniques, Procedures And Equipment. And Then, Occasionally, We Would Go Into Conflict, Usually Of Short Duration. Then You Would Return To The Cycle Of Training.”**

“Islamic extremists jarred America 14 years ago in a coordinated attack that also rattled to attention a backwater military command that had done a lot of training in past decades but only sporadic fighting. [...] ‘When I was in SEAL Team Six, we focused a lot of time on training,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke, Montana Republican, recalling the pre-9/11 era. ‘We looked at possible missions. We looked at advancing tactics, techniques, procedures and equipment. And then, occasionally, we would go into conflict, usually of short duration. Then you would return to the cycle of training.’ ‘Today,’ he said, ‘our young warriors, whether they enter as Green Berets or SEALs or one of the other special operations units, they’re coming into a service that is at war. It’s likely they will spend their entire career at war.’ [Washington Times, [9/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Said “SEALs Or One Of The Other Special Operations Units, They’re Coming Into A Service That Is At War” And Were Likely To “Spend Their Entire Career At War.”**

“Islamic extremists jarred America 14 years ago in a coordinated attack that also rattled to attention a backwater military command that had done a lot of training in past decades but only sporadic fighting. [...] ‘When I was in SEAL Team Six, we focused a lot of time on training,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke, Montana Republican, recalling the pre-9/11 era. ‘We looked at possible missions. We looked at advancing tactics, techniques, procedures and equipment. And then, occasionally, we would go into conflict, usually of short duration. Then you would return to the cycle of training.’ ‘Today,’ he said, ‘our young warriors, whether they enter as Green Berets or SEALs or one of the other special operations units, they’re coming into a service that is at war. It’s likely they will spend their entire career at war.’ [Washington Times, [9/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Said SEAL Team Six Was “Much Larger Today,” Than When He Was A Member**

“Islamic extremists jarred America 14 years ago in a coordinated attack that also rattled to attention a backwater military command that had done a lot of training in past decades but only sporadic fighting. [...] SEAL Team Six, where Mr. Zinke commanded a squadron, has expanded in both men and territory at its base at Dam Neck,

Virginia, under an official name: Naval Special Warfare Development Group. 'It's much larger today,' the congressman said. 'When I was there, we were all in one building. You could tell everyone in the command by their first name. Not only did I know everyone's name, I also knew their wives' first names. Today, when I go back to the compound, it's huge. The mission portfolio is also more complex.'" [Washington Times, [9/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Talked With Greta Van Susteren About What Goes In To Planning Special Operations Missions Like The Delta Force Mission In Syria.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke, [5/18/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke On Navy SEALs: "These Guys Are Professional. What They're Trained To Do Is Identify A Threat And No Threat And It Is A Risky Business. They're Not Angels. They're Professionals."**

BLITZER: Let's talk about the Navy SEALs for a moment, because in recent days there was this very long, thousand-of-words article in 'The New York Times.' You were quoted in that article. I am sure you read it. One of the quotes in the article about the Navy SEALs was this. And it was critical -- quote -- 'America's new way of war in which conflict is distinguished not by battlefield wins and losses, but by the relentless killing of suspected militants, spurring recurring concerns about excessive killing and civilian deaths.' Give me your reaction to that?" ZINKE: "SEAL Team Six and our Tier 1 forces are highly scrutinized. These guys are professional. What they're trained to do is identify a threat and nonthreat. And it is a risky business. They're not angels. They're professionals. And you know what? We owe them our gratitude and thanks. Not everyone can do this job. Not everyone is capable of doing this job. They put themselves in harm's way repeatedly. And what America needs to do is thank. Thank you, SEAL Team Six. Thank you, Delta, for everything you do." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Navy Seals Were The "Best In The World And We Need To Support Them."**

BLITZER: "But you think in recent years there's been, in the word of this 'New York Times' story, excessive killing and civilian deaths?" ZINKE: "I don't. They are highly scrutinized. They have multiple chain of command. When I conducted an operation in Bosnia, we were being armchair- quarterbacked all the way from Washington, D.C., and these missions that are high-value target, they're being watched by everybody, multiple layers. And they don't have a lot of leeway, other than threat/nonthreat, do what you need to do to protect your buddy and carry out the mission successfully. I'm convinced that these are the best in the world. And we need to support them." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/10/15](#)]

## **U.S. TERRITORIES**

### **Voted For Reducing Funding For The Secretary Departmental Operations To Increase Funding For Insular Affairs By \$5 Million**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for "reduc[ing] funding for the Office of the Secretary Departmental Operations by 5 million and increase funding for the Insular Affairs by a similar amount." The amendment failed 183-245. [HR 2822, [Vote #395](#), 7/08/15; H AMDT 549, [7/08/15](#)]

### **Insular Affairs Coordinates Federal Policy For Island Territories Including American Samoa And Guam**

"The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas carries out the administrative responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior in coordinating federal policy for the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Assistant Secretary is also responsible for administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association, as well as providing technical and financial assistance to all the Insular Areas." [US Department of Interior, accessed [10/21/15](#)]

## **Voted Against Prohibiting Funding For Live-Fire Ranges Or Training Courses Within Northern Marianas Islands**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would “prohibit use of funds to establish any live-fire range, training course, or maneuver area within the Northern Marianas Islands.” The amendment failed, 173-256. [H.R. 2685, [Vote #349](#), 6/11/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

## EDUCATION

- ✓ Zinke received a 25% rating from the Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers in 2011, and a 73% in 2009.
- ✓ **VOUCHERS:** He voted for a D.C. private school voucher program that D.C. officials did not want. He has repeatedly touted being “pro-choice” on schools and supported “school choice” as an “option.” He wanted to allow experimental charter schools in Montana, and supported allowing parents to use vouchers.
- ✓ **COMMON CORE:** Zinke implied common core was a “disaster” and voted to allow states to withdraw from the common core standards. He also said he disliked it but would support it if local school boards voted for it. However, the *Billings Gazette* specifically called Zinke out on being “incorrect in implying that the federal government coerced Montana to adopt Common Core. In fact, the Common Core effort is a state-led response to pleas from U.S. businesses and the Department of Defense to raise the bar on public education quality.”
- ✓ **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:** Zinke opposed grants to expand preschool programs and opposed funding for child care and development. He even voted to allow public elementary schools to charge for preschool.
- ✓ **HIGHER EDUCATION:** Despite benefitting from a Pell Grant, Zinke supported slashing Pell grants by \$125 billion and restricting their eligibility. In 2008, he claimed to support state funding for college affordability, but he voted against \$15 million for the Montana University System and voted for a budget that increased tuition rates.
- ✓ **K-12:** He voted to replace NCLB with the ESEA, but he voted against: adding a STEM Gateways program for girls, minorities, and low-income students; against ensuring textbooks meet education standards; against school dropout prevention grants; and against early childhood education grants. He also criticized the “proficiency” of Montana schools in 2014. He opposed millions in increased education funding, voted for a state budget that cut \$12 million from K-12. Zinke said of a bill designed to redistribute funds between districts: “in the legislature, it is our job to equalize.” He also voted against raising the dropout age and to indefinitely postpone a bill that would evaluate educational achievement.
- ✓ **TEACHERS:** Zinke voted against providing students with qualified teaching aides and assistants; and against protecting teacher development funding for high-poverty areas. He implied that teachers’ laziness prevented them from using technology in the classroom
- ✓ Voted to indefinitely postpone a bill that would have evaluated educational achievement. He also said he wanted to model teacher pay after military pay and supported a merit pay system.

### Received a 25% Rating from MEA/MFT in 2011

In 2011, Zinke received a 25 percent rating from the Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://votesmart.org/candidate/evaluations/104073/ryan-zinke>" | ".U2fqwfldWSo" [5/05/14](#)]

## **2009: Received a 73% Rating from the MEA/MFT**

In 2009, Zinke received a 73 percent rating from the Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **CHARTER & PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

### **Zinke Voted for D.C. Private School Voucher Program**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for. “Passage of a bill that would reauthorize the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships to D.C. students to cover tuition and other expenses to attend private schools. Specifically, the bill would extend through fiscal 2021 the current annual authorization level of \$60 million, evenly split among the program, D.C. public school improvement and D.C. public charter school expansion. The bill would require private schools to be accredited or be seeking accreditation to be eligible to participate in the program and would bar the Education Department from limiting student eligibility based on certain factors, such as the school the student previously attended.” The bill was passed by a vote of 240-191. [CQ, [10/21/15](#); H.R. 10; Vote 559, [10/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring Schools in Voucher Program to Certify Civil Rights, Age Discrimination, & Disability Law Protections Provided to Students**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Scott, D-Va., motion to recommit the bill to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would require schools, in order to participate in the program, to certify that they will provide participating students with protections under civil rights, age discrimination, and disability laws.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 185-242. [CQ, [10/21/15](#); H.R. 10; Vote 558, [10/21/15](#)]

### **White House Criticized “Using Federal Resources to Support a Handful of Students in Private Schools.”**

“The House on Wednesday passed legislation to reauthorize a D.C. school voucher program in a vote that represented a swan song for outgoing Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio). Passed 240-191 largely along party lines, the measure renews the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which allows low-income students in Washington to attend private schools using taxpayer-funded vouchers. [...] The White House issued a statement opposing the bill, but stopped short of a veto threat. And given Democratic opposition, the bill faces long odds in the Senate. ‘Instead of using federal resources to support a handful of students in private schools, the federal government should focus its attention and available resources on improving the quality of public schools for all students,’ the White House said in a Statement of Administration Policy. The measure authorizes \$60 million from fiscal 2017 through 2021, which reflects the current funding level.” [The Hill, Floor Action, [7/21/15](#)]

### **Del. Norton: “The D.C. Voucher Program Is His Pet Project, Not D.C.’s”**

“The House on Wednesday passed legislation to reauthorize a D.C. school voucher program in a vote that represented a swan song for outgoing Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio). Passed 240-191 largely along party lines, the measure renews the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which allows low-income students in Washington to attend private schools using taxpayer-funded vouchers. [...] Before final passage, the House rejected an amendment from D.C.’s non-voting representative, Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D), that would limit schools to have no more than 50 percent enrollment of students using the vouchers. It failed on a voice vote. Norton said she had been willing to compromise on a measure that allowed current D.C. voucher students to remain in the program until graduation, unlike Wednesday’s measure that would open up to new recipients. But she suggested Wednesday’s vote was merely meant to recognize Boehner on his way out the door. ‘We are here so that Speaker John Boehner has a capstone to his own political career. The D.C. voucher program is his pet project, not D.C.’s,’ Norton said. ‘D.C. residents, not unaccountable members of Congress, know best what our children need and how to govern our own affairs,’ she added.” [The Hill, Floor Action, [7/21/15](#)]

### **Touted Bill that Gave “Flexibility” to Local Schools & “Pro-Choice” on Education**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said “the bill that I sponsored gave flexibility to local schools.” Zinke said, “I think in the legislature, I had my choice of which committee to pick, and I picked

Education, because I think education matters. The bill that I sponsored gave flexibility to local schools. And there were a lot of bills that came through, and I'm a pro-choice guy, as far as education, but you need to give the local school boards the power to make decisions." [YouTube, accessed [5/13/14](#)]

### **Zinke said "Do Parents Deserve More Choice? Absolutely."**

In March 2014, Zinke rhetorically asked "do parents deserve more choice?" he answered "absolutely." Zinke said, "I also value education. I had a choice in the senate, of which committee I was on. I picked education. Why? Because education is important. Can we get better at it? Absolutely. Do parents deserve more choice? Absolutely. Should teachers be accountable, evaluated? Absolutely. Should education be a local decision? Absolutely. I don't think we need Washington, D.C. telling us how to raise our children." [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **School Choice Needed to be "An Option"**

In February 2012, while running for Lieutenant Governor, Zinke said that school choice needed to be looked at as an option. Zinke said, "I also think school choice come up. There is a performance problem in our schools, and while it's not just a situation about choice, I think we need to look at that as an option." [Silver State Post, 2/15/12]

### **Wanted to Amend Bill to Allow Experimental Charter Schools**

In April 2011, Zinke wanted to amend the bill to include language to allow experimental charter schools. Zinke said, "At the end of the day, we'll have an opportunity for charter schools to exist in law, and exist within the [public school] system. I think it will be a vehicle for innovation." [Independent Record, 4/18/11]

### **Supported Allowing Parents to Use Vouchers**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for allowing parents to use vouchers to send their children to any public school. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **COMMON CORE**

### ***Billings Gazette* Called Out Zinke's Incorrect Suggesting the Federal Govt. Coerced MT into Common Core**

In 2015, a Billings Gazette editorial read, "While we applaud Zinke's support for the long-overdue update [passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, S 1177], his statement on his vote is incorrect in implying that the federal government coerced Montana to adopt Common Core. In fact, the Common Core effort is a state-led response to pleas from U.S. businesses and the Department of Defense to raise the bar on public education quality. Top state education officials from across the nation spearheaded the core development. It was each individual state's decision whether or not to adopt these reading and math standards. The Montana Board of Public Education adopted the Montana Common Core after a public, multi-year process. The federal government didn't require Montana to adopt the state's reading and math standards and didn't reward Montana for adopting them." [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [12/15/15](#)]

### ***MTN News*: "Zinke Said Common Core Has Been A 'Disaster' For Montana Schools."**

"A federal education bill replacing the much-maligned No Child Left Behind law is poised to pass Congress – and getting praise from Republicans and Democrats. U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, (R-Mont.), who voted for the measure Wednesday, called it a 'win for Montana K-12 students' and said it will greatly reduce federal requirements tied to testing results. [...] Zinke said Common Core has been a 'disaster' for Montana schools and that he joined a majority 'to roll back Common Core and return local control of K-12 education to the families and teachers of Montana students.' [...] Zinke also noted the bill includes provisions that he had requested, to allow more money to be used for digital learning resources in rural schools." [MTN News, [12/4/15](#)]

## **Voted For Amendment Allowing States To Withdraw From Common Core Without Jeopardizing Federal Funding**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment allowing states to withdraw from common core without losing their funding. “The first piece of legislation Rep. Lee Zeldin introduced since his election to Congress was an amendment to an education law that would allow states to withdraw from the Common Core standards without jeopardizing federal. States are not required under federal law to adopt the Common Core. Rather, some states that have been recipients of federal grants through President Obama’s Race To The Top program were required to implement curriculum guidelines that boost college and career readiness.” The amendment passed, 373 to 206. [HR 5, [Vote #410](#), 7/07/15; Politico, [3/03/15](#)]

## **Zinke Disliked Common Core, But Would Support It if Local School Board Did**

In 2014, the *Missoulian* reported, “Ryan Zinke, the Republican candidate for the U.S. House, has expressed his dislike of Common Core, though he also has said that he would support the standards if local school boards voted to do so as well. Speaking at a rally in Red Lodge on Thursday, Zinke called Common Core a government program that represents just one more federal regulation. ‘Two things made America great: innovation and the ability to think outside the box, and Common Core is destroying this,’ the *Carbon County News* quoted Zinke as saying. ‘We need a holistic approach to education or Common Core will quickly become the lowest common denominator.’” [Missoulian, 10/18/14]

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

### **Zinke “Emphasized Local Control” After Being Approached Efforts to Reject \$40M in Federal Preschool Grant Funding**

“About 50 Republican legislators implored Montana’s congressional delegation to reject \$40 million in federal preschool grant funding in an August letter. The move left Gov. Steve Bullock literally throwing up his hands while speaking to teachers recently. Bullock pushed a failed state-funded preschool initiative this fall. [...] Representatives from Sen. Steve Daines’ and Rep. Ryan Zinke’s offices confirmed that they received the letter and emphasized local control in brief, emailed statements.” [Billings Gazette, [10/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed \$250M Grants to Expand Preschool Programs**

In 2014, Zinke said he opposed the Ryan-Murray Budget deal that restored cuts caused by sequestration by providing \$8.6 billion for Head Start, a \$1.025 billion increase. Within that funding is \$500 million for Early Head Start and \$250 million in grants to expand preschool programs. [Voice of Montana, [12/11/13](#); House Appropriations Committee, Labor, Health, Human Services and Education, [1/13/14](#), Washington Post, [1/13/14](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed \$2.3B in Funding for Child Care & Development Block Grant Program**

In 2014, Zinke said he opposed the Ryan-Murray Budget deal that provided \$2.3 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program. [HR 3547, [Vote # 21](#), 1/15/14; House Appropriations Committee, Labor, Health, Human Services and Education, [1/13/14](#)]

### **Voted to Allow Public Elementary Schools to Charge for Preschool**

In March 2011, Zinke voted to allow trustees of an elementary school district to charge a fee for a child to enter a preschool program. The bill passed (26-24). [[SB 244](#), [3/04/11](#)]

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **Zinke Voted for Need-Based Financial Aid Through 2022 & to Prohibit Colleges from Sharing Data with 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Goodlatte, R -Va., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would extend a current antitrust exemption that allows higher education institutions that disregard financial need in their admissions processes to enter into agreements to administer financial aid programs through September,

2022, as long as the agreements only address aid provided strictly on the basis of financial need that does not target specific students. The bill would also amend the current anti-trust exemption to prohibit higher education institutions from sharing financial need data with an independent third party.” The motion passed by 378-0. [CQ, [7/27/15](#), S. 1482, Vote 467, [7/27/15](#)]

### **On College Graduate Rates, Zinke Said Stressed the Need for Jobs College Graduates & Said It Wasn't for Everyone**

“American history teacher Brian Fox’s seventh graders were not afraid to ask tough questions of U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., during a video chat session Thursday afternoon. [...] Student Aria Scovel, however, said she felt Zinke didn’t answer her question on what will be done to improve the percentage of Montana college graduates. Zinke’s answer had been, “The biggest asset Montana has is you. I want to make sure when you get to be my age that I leave you the same Montana as I had growing up. I want to make sure the forests are healthy, I want to make sure there’s a job for you when you go to school, and for some, going to college is going to be the right move. For others maybe the trades, a plumber or welder or guy or gal that likes to work on cars. So the education part is incredibly important.” [Daily Inter Lake, [5/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Slashing Pell Grants By \$125 Billion**

Zinke supported the budget proposed by Rep. Paul Ryan that cut \$125 billion from Pell Grants, a financial aid program benefitting 9.4 million students including 1,700 Montana students. [US Congressional GOP Debate, [5/28/14](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [4/01/14](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Restricting Eligibility for Pell Grants**

Zinke supports the House budget proposed by Rep. Paul Ryan that would roll back recent expansions to the Pell Grant program, eliminate eligibility for less-than-half-time students and end administrative payments to participating colleges. [US Congressional GOP Debate, [5/28/14](#); Chronicle of Higher Education, [4/01/14](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against \$15M for the Montana University System**

In 2011, as state senator, Zinke voted against an amendment that would have provided \$15 million in additional funding to the Montana University System to be distributed directly to campuses. [MEA-MEFT 2011 [Voting Record](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for a State Budget that Increased College Tuition Rates to Address Budget Shortfalls**

In 2011, Zinke voted for the state biennium budget that included \$14 million less in funding for the higher education than Governor Schweitzer’s proposed budget. Tuition rates ha to be increased by 10% in order to address the shortfalls. [HB 2, [4/28/11](#); Montana Budget & Policy Center, [7/01/11](#)]

### **Opposed Affirmative Action in Public College Admissions**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his opposition to affirmative action in public college admissions and said that Montana should not continue its affirmative action programs. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **...BUT Supported Providing State Funding for College Affordability**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for providing state funding for tax incentives and financial aid to help make college more affordable. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Zinke Made It Harder For Families To Afford College**

**Congressman Zinke Voted Against a Tax Incentive That Would Make College More Affordable For Middle-Class Families:** Congressman Zinke voted against a measure that would extend and expand the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC); The AOTC provides a significant tax incentive for middle-class Americans to attend college. [CQ, [3/25/15](#), H. Con Res 27, Vote 139, [3/25/15](#); RealClearPolitics, [3/23/15](#); [IRS](#); [HConRes 27](#)]

**In Spite of the Fact He Benefitted from a Pell Grant, Congressman Zinke Supported Limiting and Defunding Pell Grants:** Pell Grants provide higher educational opportunities for millions of low-income students, including thousands of Montanans. Congressman Zinke supported the Ryan Budget that proposed cutting Pell Grant funding by \$125 billion over ten years and eliminating eligibility for less-than-half-time students and administrative payments. This would adversely affect 1,780 students in Montana. [Billings Gazette, [4/25/14](#); [HConRes 25](#) p. 82-85; Chronicle of Higher Education, [4/1/14](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [4/01/14](#); Bozeman Chronicle, [8/24/14](#); White House, [4/9/14](#)]

**Congressman Zinke Supported a State Budget that Cut Over \$53 Million from Higher Education:** Congressman Zinke supported the 2011 biennium budget for Montana that contained \$53.13 million less for higher education than the Governor's office recommended. [HB 2, [4/14/09](#); Montana Budget & Policy Center, [2/12/10](#)]

**Congressman Zinke Supported a State Budget that Would Increase College Tuition to Address Budget Shortfall:** The 2013 biennium budget included \$14 million less for higher education than the Governor's office recommended. Tuition rates would increase by 10 percent to address this shortfall. [HB 2, [4/28/11](#); Montana Budget & Policy Center, [7/01/11](#)]

**Congressman Zinke Voted Against Adding \$15 Million for the Montana University System:** Congressman Zinke voted against an amendment that would have provided \$15 million in additional funding to the Montana University System. [MEA-MEFT [Voting Record](#)]

**Congressman Zinke Voted against Loan Reimbursement for Registered Nurses Working for the State of Montana:** Congressman Zinke voted against a House bill to establish a loan reimbursement program for registered professional nurses working at the Montana state prison and state hospital. [[HB 224](#), [4/15/09](#)]

**Congressman Zinke Received Low Marks From Education Groups:**

Based on Congressman Zinke's 2015 voting record, the National Education Association gave Congressman Zinke an "F" rating. [NEA [Legislative Report Card](#)]

In 2011, Congressman Zinke received a 25% rating from MEA-MFT. The MEA-MFT is the largest education advocacy group in Montana. [MEA-MEFT 2011 [Voting Record](#)]

**Congressman Zinke Opposed Affirmative Action in Public College Admissions:** In 2008, Congressman Zinke stated his opposition to affirmative action in public college admissions. He said that Montana should not continue its affirmative action programs. [Project Vote Smart, [5/05/14](#)]

## **K-12 EDUCATION & FUNDING**

### **Zinke Voted to Replace NCLB, Ending Federal Accountability System & Shifting School Accountability the Local Level**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for: "Adoption of a conference report to accompany the Every Student Succeeds Act (S 1177) that would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for four years, through FY 2020. The bill would replace the No Child Left Behind Act, ending the federal accountability system and shifting academic standards and school accountability authority back to states and local school districts. The measure would continue the requirement for regular testing of students to assess their proficiency in math, reading, and science, with the results of those assessments to be disaggregated by race, income, and other categories to determine whether any subgroup of students is lagging academically. States would be

required to develop plans to help the lowest-performing 5 percent of all public schools, high schools that fail to graduate one-third or more of their students, and schools where a subgroup of students consistently underperforms.” The bill passed 359-64. [CQ, [12/2/15](#), H.R.8, Vote 665, [12/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Today Was A Win For Montana K-12 Students.”**

“The House-Senate conference committee reached an agreement on a bipartisan, bicameral K-12 package to replace No Child Left Behind. The House voted on the Conference Report to Accompany S. 1177 - Student Success Act on Dec. 2. [...] Democrats and Republicans across the nation supported the measure with Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke (R-MT) penning a letter to the committee’s chairmen. In the context of the letter Zinke asks for a education technology and tech specific educator professional development through a stand-alone program. ‘Education technology,’ he said, ‘when coupled with strong support for educators, has a transformative impact on individualizing instruction and improving student learning.’ In a press release from Ryan Zinke’s office the proposal would cut down on federal interference through Common Core or other policies from the federal government, thus giving states more control over their education paths. ‘Today was a win for Montana K-12 students. I joined a bipartisan majority to roll back Common Core and return local control of K-12 education to the families and teachers of Montana students,’ Zinke said.” [KULR8, [12/02/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said ESEA Included Support for Education Technology & Technology-Specific Educator Professional Development, Preferably a Stand-Alone Program**

“Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40), Congressman Dave Loebsack (IA-02), Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) have led 14 of their Congressional colleagues in sending a letter to House and Senate education leaders urging that a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) maintain strong education technology provisions. The bicameral and bipartisan letter, which was addressed to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and the House Education and Workforce Committee, asks ESEA conferees to include robust support in their bill for ‘education technology and technology-specific educator professional development, preferably through a stand-alone program.’ Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Rep. Roybal-Allard, Press Release, [11/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for ESEA Reauthorization with Fundamental Changes to Many of Its Programs Through FY 2019**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and would make fundamental changes to many of its programs through Fiscal 2019. The bill would allow Title I funding to follow individual students to other schools, and eliminates more than 65 elementary and secondary education programs and merges their funding. In addition, the new Title I block grant would give states greater flexibility in how funds are used. It would also allow states to establish their own teacher evaluation systems tied to student achievement. The bill would also reauthorize and expand the charter school program and includes other provisions to increase parental choice.” The bill was passed by a vote of 218-213. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.R. 5, Vote 423, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Voted Against STEM Gateways Program for Educating Girls, Minorities, & Low-Income Students at Elementary & Secondary Schools**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would have established a STEM Gateways program for state education agencies to issue grants for educating girls, underrepresented minorities and low-income students in the science, technology, engineering and math fields at elementary schools and secondary schools.” The amendment failed, 204 to 217. [HR 5, [Vote #95](#), 2/26/15; Bangor Daily News, [2/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Decreasing Length Of NCLB Reauthorization from 6 to 3 Years**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to decrease the length of the bill’s reauthorization of existing elementary and secondary education law from Fiscal Year 2021 to Fiscal Year 2018. According to Rep. Jared Polis, “Having the Federal education policy in place for long enough for all of its systems around public education to catch up and create rules, create policies to see the new law succeed to the extent that it can are

absolutely critical for any Federal education law. The worst possible outcome would be every single 2 or 3 years, this body goes in a radically different direction with regard to Federal education policy, causing every State, every district, every educator, every principal--instead of spending time teaching kids and helping educate children in the classroom--studying up on Federal education policy, trying to fill out new forms, trying to figure out new testing regimes; and, just as they figure them out, we are going to move the ball again. Whatever the Federal education policy is, it is very important to have some consistency.” [HR 5, [Vote #96](#), 2/26/15; House Congressional Record, Page H1255, [2/26/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Ensuring Textbooks Meet Education Standards**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to establish an ombudsman within the Department of Education to act as a neutral reviewer to ensure that textbooks meet academic standards. “Under Castro’s proposal, students, teachers and administrators could submit complaints to the Department of Education ombudsman. The ombudsman would not be able to undo state decisions over textbooks, but could help resolve disagreements over textbook content.” The amendment failed, 182 to 243. [HR 5, [Vote #97](#), 2/26/15; The Hill, [2/26/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Said It Would Restore Local Control & Stop “Abusive Tactics” Used by the Federal Government**

“Thanks to the federal education law No Child Left Behind, American children starting kindergarten today can expect to take 17 federally required tests by the time they graduate. [...] In the House, Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke cast a yes vote last week for the House education bill. He said it would restore local control and parental control, while outlawing ‘abusive tactics’ used by the federal government. ‘Unelected bureaucrats who don’t know the difference between Butte, Bozeman, or Winnett have made decisions ... long enough,’ Zinke said in a press release.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [7/12/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Urge the Edu. Dept. Review Regulations on Student Privacy & Ensure Students’ Information Is Protected**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Hurd, R-Texas amendment that would express the sense of Congress that the Education Department should review all regulations addressing issues of student privacy and ensure that students’ personally identifiable information is protected.” The amendment was adopted 424-2. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.54 to H.R. 5, Vote 411, [7/8/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring the DOE to Study the Impact of School Start Times on Student Health, Well-Being & Performance**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Grayson, D-Fla., that would require the Education Department to conduct an assessment of the impact of school start times on student health, well-being and performance.” The amendment failed 199-228. [CQ, [7/9/15](#); H.Amdt.55 to H.R. 5, Vote 412, [7/8/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Establishing DOE Grants on School Dropout Prevention & Re-Entry**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Wilson, D-Fla., that would provide for school dropout prevention and re-entry and would provide grants to raise academic achievement levels for all students.” The amendment failed 192-237. [CQ, [7/9/15](#); H.Amdt.56 to H.R. 5, Vote 413, [7/8/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring DOE to Develop Strategy to Measure Student Learning Developments for Elementary & Secondary School Students**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Carson, D-Ind., amendment that would require the Education Department to develop a national strategy for elementary and secondary school education that includes advancing an annual measure of student learning, including a system of assessments; effective teacher preparation and continuing professional development; education administration; and international comparisons of education.” The amendment failed 186-245. [CQ, [7/9/15](#); H.Amdt.59 to H.R. 5, Vote 414, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against DOE Grants Aimed at Expanding Bi-literacy Programs**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Brownley, D-Calif., that would create a grant program for states to create or expand biliteracy seal programs to recognize student proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in both English and a second language for graduating high school seniors.” The amendment failed 191-239. [CQ, [7/9/15](#); H.Amdt.62 to H.R. 5, Vote 415, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for DOE Grant Program to Expand Digital Learning at Rural Schools**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Loeb sack, D-Iowa, amendment that would support the expansion of the use of digital learning through the creation of a competitive grant program to partnerships to implement and evaluate the results of technology-based learning practices, strategies, tools or programs at rural schools.” The amendment passed 218-213. [CQ, [7/9/15](#); H.Amdt.63 to H.R. 5, Vote 416, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Grants for Early Childhood Edu. Scholarships, Professional Development & Licensing Credentials, or Increased Pay for Specific Qualifications**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Meng, D-N.Y., amendment that would create a program under which the Education Department would provide grants for early childhood education scholarships, professional development and licensing credentials, or increased compensation for educators who have attained specific qualifications. The amendment would also require each state that applies for a grant to include in its application a description of its comprehensive early childhood professional development system, and grant recipients must maintain their fiscal effort for the activities supported by the grant funds for a fiscal year at levels equal to or greater than their fiscal effort for such activities during the preceding fiscal year.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 205-224. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.64 to H.R. 5, Vote 417, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for the DOE to Certify the Bill Would Not Reduce College & Career Readiness of Minority Students, Disabled Students, English Learners & Low-Income Students**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Thompson, D-Miss., amendment that would prohibit the bill from being enacted until the Education Department determines that its enactment will not reduce the college and career readiness of racial or ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, English learners and low-income students and the department provides written notification to Congress on such determination.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 189-241. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.65 to H.R. 5, Vote 418, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Allow States to Receive Federal Education Funds In The Form Of A Block Grant To Be Used For Any Education Purpose Under State Law**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Walker, R-N.C., amendment that would allow states to receive federal education funds in the form of a block grant to be used for any education purpose under state law. States operating under a block grant must assess student achievement and must disseminate disaggregated student performance data. The amendment would also require that a state receiving federal education funds as a block grant must ensure that private schools receive an equitable portion of that funding.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 195-235. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.639 to H.R. 5, Vote 419, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Allow Parents to Opt a Student Out of the Required Assessments**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Salmon, R-Ariz., amendment that would allow parents to opt a student out of the required assessments for any reason. Students whose parents opt them out would not be included when calculating the participation rate in the assessment.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 251-178. [CQ, [7/8/15](#), H.Amdt.640 to H.R. 5, Vote 420, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring States Establish K-12 College- & Career-Ready Standards In English, Math & Science & High-Quality Assessments of Them**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Scott, D-Va., substitute amendment that would require states to establish college-and career-ready standards in English, math and science for grades K-12 and high-quality assessments aligned to those standards. The amendment would also require state education plans for youth in juvenile

institutions, require districts to include teacher salaries in their calculations for Title I funds and require states and districts to publicly report progress in making funding equitable. Furthermore, the amendment would reauthorize and modify the Charter School Program similar to those in HR 5 and create programs for STEM education and literacy from preschool through grade 12, as well as grants for technology infrastructure and for nongovernmental entities to develop curricula in various subject matters. Finally, it would authorize grants to states for high-quality preschool programs and increase authorizations for Native Indian, Hawaiian and Alaska Native education programs, as well as for the education of homeless children and youth.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 187-244. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.66 to H.R. 5, Vote 421, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring that Each State Demonstrate They Do Not Result in a Lower Standard of Education for Children with Disabilities**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Esty, D-Conn., motion to recommit the bill to the House Education and the Workforce Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that that would guarantee educational opportunities for children with disabilities by requiring that each state demonstrate their laws do not result in a lower standard of education than for those students without disabilities, grant students with disabilities access to a regular secondary school diploma, give parents the right to informed consent about their child’s education, cannot lower expectations or academic achievement for students with disabilities, or give educational opportunities for any student, including those from racial and ethnic minorities.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 185-244. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.R 5, Vote 422, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Said Montana Schools Were “Not Doing Well in Proficiency”**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said “I’m a Montana conservative” and lamented about Montana’s schools “not doing very well in proficiency.” Zinke said, “And I’m a Montana conservative. That means I vote for infrastructure, I vote for schools, because schools are investment. In the legislature we voted on a lot of things, back and forth. But as Montanans, where are we on infrastructure? Where are we on education? The bar is pretty low. Yeah, we’re doing okay in graduation rates, but we’re not doing very well in proficiency.” [YouTube, accessed [5/13/14](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Millions in Increased Funding for BIA & Education**

Zinke opposed the Ryan-Murray budget deal that increased funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Education by \$18 million. [Voice of Montana, [12/11/13](#); HR 3547, [Vote # 21](#), 1/15/14; House Appropriations Committee, Interior & Environment Appropriations, [1/13/14](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for a State Budget that Cut \$12M from K-12**

In 2011, Zinke voted for the state biennium budget that provided approximately \$12 million less in state support for K-12 schools than what was recommended in Governor Schweitzer’s budget. [HB 2, [4/28/11](#); Montana Budget & Policy Center, [7/01/11](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Increasing Funding for Montana K-12**

In 2011, as state senator, Zinke voted against an amendment that would have increased K-12 base aid and provided for an inflationary increase for special education failed 23-27. [MEA-MEFT 2011 [Voting Record](#)]

### **Proposed Using Tourism Bed-Taxes for Education Bill**

In April 2011, Zinke proposed funding an education bill with money from the oil and gas school districts as well as from bed-tax revenue from tourism. Zinke said, “I cannot in good faith defund education and not contribute tourism dollars to that purpose. Nor can I look at oil and gas and not ask them to contribute the same share.” [Independent Record, 4/07/11]

### **Education Funding Proposal Included 1.9% Increase**

The educational funding proposal included a 1.9 percent increase in 2011 and a 1.53 percent increase the following year, which was the same amount that Governor Schweitzer proposed in his budget. Zinke said, “My

position is to fully fund [schools] according to the statute [on inflationary increases]. What's in, what's out is open for discussion, as well as the funding. I feel confident that at the end of the day we'll figure it out." [Independent Record, 4/19/11]

### **Zinke's Education Bill Became Mechanism for Educational Funding Bill**

In 2011, Zinke sponsored an education bill to allow school districts to form cooperatives to cover certain shared programs; however, the bill came to be used as a mechanism for education funding. Zinke said, "I always thought my bill was a contingency bill in case everything else folded. It's going to be interesting what goes in and what goes out. The opportunity is there to do it right." [Independent Review, 3/29/11]

### **Zinke: "No Reason" for School Districts to Have Millions in Reserve**

In April 2011, Zinke said that there was "no reason" for oil and gas school districts to have millions in reserve. Zinke said, "I understand fully the importance of having reserves, especially in a growing school population. [Oil-and-gas] schools want to get ahead of the curve rather than behind the curve, and I applaud them for that. But there's no reason to be \$43 million ahead of the curve." [Billings Gazette, 4/24/11]

### **Governor Vetoed Bill**

Governor Schweitzer vetoed Zinke's education bill. Schweitzer vetoed it, in part, for "raiding" Montana's bed-tax, which was mostly used to promote the tourism industry. [Daily Inter Lake, 5/06/11]

### **Schweitzer: Bill "Needlessly Steals or Transfers Revenue"**

In May 2011, when Schweitzer vetoed Zinke's bill to "wild applause," he said that the bill "needlessly steals or transfers revenue." Governor Schweitzer said, HB 316 "needlessly steals or transfers revenue from valuable job creating economic development tools, community impact funds and longstanding programs away from their intended sources. The bill is unnecessary given Montana's strong revenue collections and I see no reason why we should hinder our economic recovery when the money to fund the core essential services is in the ban." [Daily Inter Lake, 5/07/11]

### **Claimed Montana School Would Lose \$4.5 Million**

In May 2011, Zinke said that a veto of the bill meant that Montana's schools were out \$4.5 million. Zinke said, "A veto of 316 means the schools are minus \$4.5 million. I had a zillion emails that said I don't understand tourism. I understand tourism. I get it. But sometimes you have to make tough decisions." [Whitefish Pilot, 5/11/11]

### **Zinke Said "in the Legislature, It Is Our Job to Equalize"**

In March 2011, Zinke supported a Republican education funding bill, which would redistribute some oil and gas money from eastern Montana counties. Zinke said, "in the Legislature, it is our job to equalize it." He said, "If we don't do anything, (the disparity) will only get worse. Not everyone is sitting on a coal deposit or an oil field. In the Legislature, it is our job to equalize it. It is our job to make it a fair system, so it shouldn't make a difference which side of the fence a kid grows up on." [Independent Record, 3/23/11]

### **Voted Against Legislation to Raise the Legal Dropout Age**

In January 2011, while the Chair of the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee, Zinke voted against a bill to have the legal dropout age from high school raise from 16 to age 18 or upon graduation. Zinke said, "Simply locking the door, I think, falls short of addressing the core problems [of] why we are losing kids and why they are walking out the door." The bill failed (23-25). [SB 67, 1/19/11; Daily Inter Lake, 1/19/11]

*NOTE: Juneau has been very successful in reducing the dropout rate, and one of her key proposals (that has not passed) has been increasing the drop out age to 18.*

### **Voted to Indefinitely Postpone Bill that Would Evaluate Educational Achievement**

On April 15, 2009, Zinke voted to indefinitely postpone a bill that would study education achievement. The motion passed (28-22). [SJ 34, 4/15/09]

### **Supported Requiring High School Exit Exams**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for requiring public schools to administer high school exit exams. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **TEACHERS**

### **Zinke Voted for ESEA Reauthorization with Fundamental Changes to Many of Its Programs Through FY 2019**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and would make fundamental changes to many of its programs through Fiscal 2019. The bill would allow Title I funding to follow individual students to other schools, and eliminates more than 65 elementary and secondary education programs and merges their funding. In addition, the new Title I block grant would give states greater flexibility in how funds are used. It would also allow states to establish their own teacher evaluation systems tied to student achievement. The bill would also reauthorize and expand the charter school program and includes other provisions to increase parental choice.” The bill was passed by a vote of 218-213. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.R. 5, Vote 423, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Providing Students With Qualified Teaching Aides, Assistants**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to restore paraprofessional qualification requirements in the Student Success Act, “requirements that existed in the original [No Child Left Behind] NCLB but had been removed from this legislation. Under NCLB, this provision stopped school districts from hiring paras with little experience in education and mandated that they provide training ... ‘We must ensure that paraprofessionals are qualified to provide much-needed instructional support, support that is often targeted to students who are struggling academically or who need additional help, such as English learners, or students with disabilities. That support is crucial to students, parents, and teachers, particularly in communities where resources are scarce and children are already at a disadvantage,’ said [Illinois Federation of Teachers Secretary-Treasurer Marcia] Campbell.” The amendment passed, 218 to 201. [HR 5, [Vote #98](#), 2/26/15; IFT, [2/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Protecting Teacher Development Funding for High Poverty Areas**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would delay implementation of the new formula for Title II funding until the Education secretary determines that the implementation will not reduce funding for schools serving high percentages of students in poverty. According to the amendment’s sponsor, Rep. Gwen Moore, “Specifically, the No Child Left Behind title II formula for school districts focuses 65 percent of funds on students in poverty and 35 percent on the number of students, which is students in poverty versus just the number of students. The State formula focuses 80 percent of its funding on poverty and 20 percent on student population. H.R. 5 completely upends this ... As written, we have strong reasons to fear that H.R. 5 would result in Federal dollars being siphoned away from States and school districts with the poorest students and being awarded to States and schools with higher affluence.” The amendment failed, 185 to 239. [HR 5, [Vote #99](#), 2/26/15; House Congressional Record, Page H1265, [2/26/15](#)]

### **Implied that Teachers were Lazy**

In January 2014, speaking at Hometown Helena, Zinke discussed using more technology in classrooms and said “a lot of times, it’s not only money, it’s the teachers don’t want to do it.” Zinke said, “A lot of times, it’s not only money, it’s the teachers don’t want to do it. And when, when you have only 5 years left, you know, and, you know, I don’t want to learn a new system, and that’s a challenge for management, to inject the right technology into a classroom, and make sure the curriculum addresses what we see in the job market.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

### **Wanted to Model Teacher Pay After Military Pay**

In February 2012, while running for Lieutenant Governor, Zinke said that the teacher pay system should work more like the military, with a standard base pay that would allow for additional pay if a teacher had special

training, qualifications, or teaching in an area that was difficult to recruit for. Zinke said, “You can’t give a teacher a promotion bonus for exceptional service.” [Silver State Post, 2/15/12]

### **Supported a Merit Pay System for Teachers**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for a merit pay system for teachers. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## ENERGY ISSUES

- ✓ Zinke has frequently been a proponent of the Keystone XL pipeline, drilling and other attempts to access oil and gas resources. He voted for the Keystone XL pipeline, and he voted against increasing pipeline fees and funding for pipeline safety. This is convenient given he was formerly on the board of an oil pipeline manufacturing company.
- ✓ He has also opposed energy efficiency improvements and incentives.
- ✓ He voted for lifting the 40-year crude oil ban and prohibiting increasing royalties paid to the U.S. for oil and gas produced on federal land.
- ✓ He voted for the \$36.1 billion FY 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.
- ✓ He voted for expedited permitting for natural gas pipeline projects, and voted against holding pipeline owners liable for explosions.
- ✓ He voted against increasing the tax credit for energy conserving expenditures.
- ✓ He indicated support for increased use of alternative energy, but he mocked domestic alternative energy efforts.

### **Zinke Voted to Adjust Definition of “Minority” in the Dept. of Energy Organization Act to Use More Politically Correct Terms**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for a: “Whitfield, R-Ky., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would modify the statutory definition of ‘minority’ in the Department of Energy Organization Act, by replacing an existing reference to ‘Negro, Puerto Rican, American Indian, Eskimo, Oriental, or Aleut or... a Spanish speaking individual of Spanish descent’ with ‘Asian American, Native Hawaiian, a Pacific Islander, African American, Hispanic, Puerto Rican, Native American, or an Alaska Native.’ The bill would make a similar change in a part of the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 related to minority-owned businesses.” The motion was agreed to by a 376-0 vote. [CQ, [2/29/16](#); H.R. 4238, Vote 102, [2/29/16](#)]

### **Zinke Criticized Obama’s “New \$10 Oil Tax”**

According to the *Sidney Herald*, Zinke said of President Obama’s “oil tax”, “Too many Montana families are living on the brink trying to figure out how to pay for groceries, rent, heat and gas - the President’s new \$10 oil tax will hurt them the most. The President continues to throw money to his liberal green energy donor to keep them afloat, while punishing Montana’s natural resources and the good-paying jobs they support. Here’s an idea: Let’s keep hard working Montanans afloat. Rather than taxing families and jobs to death, let’s work together to figure out how to grow the economy, become energy independent, and lift our entire nation up. That’s what all of the above energy policies will do, and that’s what I’m fighting for in Congress.” [Sidney Herald, 2/10/16]

## Zinke Criticized Approval of Kenya Pipeline, But Not Keystone



Ryan Zinke

January 12 · 🌐

Embarrassing.



### Keystone No, Kenya Pipeline Yes

The U.S. says it wants to help finance an oil pipeline in Africa, but not in the United States, the Wall Street Journal says in an editorial.

WSJ.COM

[Facebook, Ryan Zinke, 1/12/16]

## Zinke Retweeted TransCanada Legal Action for Blocking Keystone XL



Ryan Zinke Retweeted



TransCanada @TransCanada · Jan 6

TransCanada takes legal actions following unjustified denial of #KeystoneXL. Learn more: [spr.ly/6016Bn9bj](http://spr.ly/6016Bn9bj)



[Twitter, @RepRyanZinke, 1/06/16]

## Zinke Voted to Revise National Energy Efficiency Standards, Require FERC Designate Pipeline Corridors

In December 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would revise national energy efficiency standards, require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to designate at least 10 corridors across federal lands in the Eastern U.S. where pipelines could be built, and require the Department of Energy to expedite decisions on applications to export liquefied natural gas. As amended, the bill would create a permitting process for cross-border infrastructure projects, allow U.S. export of crude oil, prohibit U.S. officials from imposing or enforcing

restrictions on U.S. crude oil exports, require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to satisfy regulatory planning and review requirements, place a filing deadline on judicial cases involving energy projects on federal lands, require studies on barriers to the export of natural energy resources and on the shipment of crude oil, and incentivize community solar projects. As further amended, the bill would modify the hydrokinetic energy regulatory process, establish privacy standards for smart meters, establish a youth energy enterprise competition, modify racial terminology, and require the Energy Department to report to Congress on smart meter security, permit voluntary vegetation management around electrical structures, and repeal an EPA rule on residential wood heaters.” The bill passed by a 249-174 vote. [CQ, [12/3/15](#); H.R. 8, Vote 672, [12/3/15](#)]

#### **The Bill Would Repeal the 40-Year Old Oil Export Ban**

“The U.S. House of Representatives passed a wide-ranging bill on energy reforms on Thursday that includes a measure to repeal the 40-year-old oil export ban, but the legislation did not get enough votes to overturn a potential veto by President Barack Obama.” [Reuters, [12/3/15](#)]

#### **White House Said the Legislation Would Reduce the Government’s Ability to Consider Liquefied Natural Gas Projects**

“The U.S. House of Representatives passed a wide-ranging bill on energy reforms on Thursday that includes a measure to repeal the 40-year-old oil export ban, but the legislation did not get enough votes to overturn a potential veto by President Barack Obama. The North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act passed 249 to 174, but did not get the 290 votes needed to overcome a veto. The bill would also speed the permitting of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports and improve the aging power grid. The White House said late last month that Obama would veto the bill as it would reduce the government’s ability to consider LNG projects. That veto threat came before the lawmakers added an amendment to repeal the oil export ban, which Obama also opposes.” [Reuters, [12/3/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Energy Efficiency Improvements & Incentives**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Upton, R-Mich., amendment that would strike incentives to hydropower operators to make energy efficient improvements and would end the requirement that the Energy Department report on energy savings performance contracts that a federal agency has with electrical utilities. The bill would create an Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund paid for with sales of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, as well as a program to improve education and training for energy and manufacturing-related jobs. The amendment would also make a number of technical corrections.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 246-177. [CQ, [12/2/15](#); Amd. 1 to H.R. 8, Vote 656, [12/2/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Removing Changes to the Permitting Process of Pipelines**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Tonko, D-N.Y., amendment that would remove the bill’s changes to the permitting process of pipelines.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 179-244. [CQ, [12/2/15](#); Amd. 2 to H.R. 8, Vote 657, [12/2/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted for Permitting Process for the Import/Export of Water, Petroleum, Natural Gas & Electricity**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Green, D-Texas, amendment that would create a permitting process including the Department of Energy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Department of State for cross-border infrastructure projects, including the import and export of water, petroleum, natural gas, and the transmission of electricity.” The amendment was adopted by a 263-158 vote. [CQ, [12/2/15](#); H.Amdt.851 to H.R. 8, Vote 658, [12/2/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Continuing Targets for Reducing Energy from Fossil Fuels in Federal Buildings**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Beyer, D-Va., amendment that would continue currently enacted targets for reducing energy from fossil fuels in federal buildings.” The amendment was rejected by a 172-246 vote. [CQ, [12/2/15](#); H.Amdt.853 to H.R. 8, Vote 659, [12/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Block Lawsuits on Energy Star Products that Do Not Deliver the Associated Energy Savings**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Schakowsky, D-Ill., amendment that would remove the bill’s provisions that would prohibit lawsuits when consumers purchase Energy Star products that do not deliver the associated energy savings.” The amendment was rejected by a 183-239 vote. [CQ, [12/2/15](#); H.Amdt.855 to H.R. 8, Vote 660 [12/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Reauthorizing the Weatherization Assistance Program Through FY2020**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Tonko, D-N.Y., amendment that would reauthorize the Weatherization Assistance Program, under the Energy Conservation and Production Act, and the State Energy Program, under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, through FY 2020.” The amendment was rejected 198-224. [CQ, [12/2/15](#), H.Amdt.858 to H.R.8, Vote 661, [12/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Incentivizing Local Renewable Thermal Energy & Waste Heat Power**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Castor, D-Fla., amendment that would incentivize local renewable thermal energy and waste heat such as combined heat and power, and would provide technical assistance to eligible entities to establish distributed energy systems.” The amendment was rejected 175-247. [CQ, [12/2/15](#), H.Amdt.859 to H.R.8, Vote 662, [12/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Notifying Land Owners When Federal Minerals Beneath Land Leased to Oil & Gas**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Polis, D-Colo., amendment that would require the Department of the Interior to notify land owners when federally owned minerals beneath their land have been leased for oil and gas development.” The amendment was rejected 206-216. [CQ, [12/2/15](#), H.Amdt.860 to H.R.8, Vote 663, [12/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Repeal EPA Rule on Establishing Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential Wood Heaters**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Rouzer, R-N.C., amendment that would repeal the Environmental Protection Agency’s March 2015 rule titled, ‘Standards of Performance for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced-Air Furnaces,’ which establishes energy efficiency standards for residential wood heaters.” The amendment was adopted by a 247-177 vote. [CQ, [12/3/15](#); H.Amdt.866 to H.R. 8, Vote 669, [12/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Blocking Provision Until the Energy Info. Admin. Reported the Carbon Impacts**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Pallone, D-N.J., amendment that would prohibit the provisions of the bill from taking effect until after the Energy Information Administration has analyzed and published a report on the carbon impacts of its provisions.” The amendment was rejected by a 181-243 vote. [CQ, [12/3/15](#); H.Amdt.873 to H.R. 8, Vote 670, [12/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Removing Barriers to Renewable Energy Infrastructure in Response to Climate Change**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Cartwright, D-Pa., motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report back to the House with an amendment that would remove market barriers that inhibit the development of renewable energy infrastructure in response to the scientific consensus on climate change.” The motion was rejected by a 180-243 vote. [CQ, [12/3/15](#); motion to recommit H.R. 8, Vote 671, [12/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Allow Export Of Crude Oil & Prohibit Imposing Or Enforcing Restrictions On U.S. Crude Oil Exports**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Barton, R-Texas, amendment that would allow the export of crude oil produced in the United States by removing the export ban imposed by the 1975 Energy Policy and Conservation Act. The amendment would prohibit U.S. officials from imposing or enforcing restrictions on U.S. crude oil

exports, and would require separate reports on how lifting the ban will affect greenhouse gas emissions, national security, and jobs for veterans and women.” The amendment passed 255-168. [CQ, [12/2/15](#), H.Amdt.861 to H.R.8, Vote 664, [12/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Expressed Doubt The Bill That Would Lift The Decades-Old Ban On Exporting U.S. Crude Oil Would Pass The Senate**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, stopped by the Busch Agricultural Resource center just north of Sidney Tuesday for a tour of the facility and to talk with local workers about the issues important to them. [...] Zinke was able to pass a bipartisan bill through the House last week that would lift the decades-old ban on exporting U.S. crude oil. The aim is to create more American energy jobs and counter the power of OPEC. He said the ball is now in the Senate’s court, but he expressed doubts as to whether it would go any further. ‘It was a bipartisan oil bill,’ he said. ‘The forest fire bill went bipartisan, too, but is still sitting in the Senate. I’m hitting senators to pick up the bill. If they think they can make it better, I’ll sit down and work it out with them because that’s what Montanans do.’ [Sidney Herald, [10/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “The Forest Fire Bill Went Bipartisan, Too, But Is Still Sitting In The Senate. I’m Hitting Senators To Pick Up The Bill. If They Think They Can Make It Better, I’ll Sit Down And Work It Out With Them Because That’s What Montanans Do.”**

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### **Zinke: “Radical Environmentalists” Opposed Lifting The Crude Oil Ban**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, is pleased that HR 702, a bill to lift the crude oil export ban, passed the House 261-159 Friday. Zinke is a co-sponsor of the legislation. [...] When asked by the Herald, Zinke said the main proponents of the bill came from other states. ‘Radical environmentalists that just do everything against fossil fuels.’ He added some refineries on the East Coast also opposed the bill. ‘We’re the only country in the world that mandates a ban on exports for crude,’ Zinke said. ‘Without a strong economy, we can’t afford a strong military on the promises that we’ve made.’ He is hopeful the Senate and President Obama also support the bill.” [Sidney Herald, [10/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Some Refineries On The East Coast Also Opposed Lifting The Ban On Crude Oil Exports**

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### **Sidney Herald: “Zinke Said The Three Main Benefits [Of Lifting The Crude Oil Ban] Would Be Jobs; Strengthening The Country’s Global Influence And Support Of Its Allies; And Lowering Gas Prices.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, is pleased that HR 702, a bill to lift the crude oil export ban, passed the House 261-159 Friday. Zinke is a co-sponsor of the legislation. [...] Ending the self-imposed sanctions against exporting our own oil is a no-brainer — it will create thousands of Montana jobs, will lower gas prices, and will help keep Russia and Iran in check,’ Zinke said. ‘With Russia expanding its military influence in the Middle

East, and Iran recently having their oil sanctions lifted by President Obama and Senate Democrats, now is the time to ramp up our economic diplomacy with the one thing that will hit them where it hurts: energy production. Zinke said the three main benefits of the bill would be jobs; strengthening the country's global influence and support of its allies; and lowering gas prices." [Sidney Herald, [10/14/15](#)]

**KPAX: "Zinke [Said] That Allowing U.S. Companies To Export More Crude Oil Would Add 2,400 Jobs In Montana And Close To One Million Nationwide."**

"Congressman Ryan Zinke says that allowing U.S. companies to export more crude oil would add 2,400 jobs in Montana and close to one million nationwide. The House will consider a bill on Friday that does just that. HR 702 would eliminate Presidential authority to restrict exports of coal, petroleum products, natural gas and petrochemical feedstocks. According to a House committee report, the bill would lower gasoline prices between 1.5 and 13 cents. Zinke says he believes that the bill would allow the U.S. to help its allies and also enhance energy security. 'Having the ability to export and provide energy to our allies and even in some cases to our competitors, I think, is wise,' the Republican told MTN News. The Obama administration released a statement late Wednesday threatening to veto a House bill lifting a ban on crude oil exports." [KPAX, [10/8/15](#)]

**Zinke: "Having The Ability To Export And Provide Energy To Our Allies And Even In Some Cases To Our Competitors, I Think, Is Wise."**

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**Zinke Voted Against Removing Provisions On The National Defense Sealift**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against an: "Amash, R-Mich., amendment that would remove the bill's provisions on the National Defense Sealift." The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 109-306. [CQ, [10/9/15](#); H.Amdt.713 to H.R.702, Vote 545, [10/9/15](#)]

**The Amendment Was Designed To Cut The Bill's Increased Funding For Certain Unionized Maritime Shipping Companies**

"The House on Friday approved a bill to lift the federal prohibition on crude oil exports. [...] The House voted down an amendment designed to cut the bill's increased funding for certain unionized maritime shipping companies." [The Hill, [10/9/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Would Allow The President To Ban Oil Exports To Foreign Governments That Are Designated As State Sponsors Of Terrorism**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for an: "Messer, R-Ind., amendment that would allow the president to ban oil exports to foreign governments that are designated as state sponsors of terrorism." The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 414-1. [CQ, [10/9/15](#); H.Amdt.717 to H.R. 702, Vote 546, [10/9/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Prevent The President Or Any Other Federal Official From Enforcing Federal Laws Or Regulations Necessary To Protect Human Health, The Environment, Or Public Safety**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: "Huffman, D-Calif., motion to recommit to the Committee of Energy and Commerce with instructions to report back to the House with an amendment that would ensure that nothing in the bill would prevent the president or any other federal official from enforcing federal laws or regulations necessary to protect human health, the environment, or public safety." The motion was rejected by a vote of 179-242. [CQ, [10/9/15](#); H.R. 702, Vote 548, [10/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Allow The Export Of Crude Oil Produced In The United States By Removing The Export Ban Imposed By The 1975 Energy Policy And Conservation Act**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would allow the export of crude oil produced in the United States by removing the export ban imposed by the 1975 Energy Policy and Conservation Act, and it prohibits U.S. officials from imposing or enforcing restrictions on U.S. crude oil exports, but would not prevent the president from limiting U.S. crude oil exports in response to foreign threats. As amended, the bill would also include a report on greenhouse gas emissions and a study on the impact on consumers, would allow the president to ban exports to state sponsors of terrorism, and would ban the sale of U.S.-produced oil to Iran.” The bill passed by a vote of 261-159. [CQ, [10/9/15](#); H.R. 702, Vote 549, [10/9/15](#)]

### **The Hill: Democrats Opposed The Bill Because The Economic Impact Was “Overblown,” The Bill Would “Endanger Jobs In The Refining Sector” And Would Pose “Environmental Risks In Pumping More Oil For Exports.”**

“The House on Friday approved a bill to lift the federal prohibition on crude oil exports. [...] Republicans broadly support lifting the ban, and 26 Democrats voted with them Friday to do so. Most, though, opposed Barton’s bill, arguing that its economic impact is overblown and that it will endanger jobs in the refining sector. They also cite environmental risks in pumping more oil for exports.” [The Hill, [10/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Remove All Restrictions On The Export Of Crude Oil From The United States**

In June 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “a bill to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions.” [CQ, Accessed [6/4/15](#); H.R. 702, Co-sponsored 6/1/15, Introduced [2/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Advance A Bill That Would Reduce Federal Regulations On The Development Of Indian Lands To Expedite The Development Of Energy And A Bill That Would Adapt To Changing Crude Oil Market Conditions**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 466) that would provide for the consideration of the bill (HR 538) that would reduce Federal regulations on the development of Indian lands to expedite the development of energy, and for consideration of the bill (HR 702) that would adapt to changing crude oil market conditions.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 244-185. [CQ, [10/8/15](#); H. Res. 466, Vote 542, [10/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Advance A Bill That Would Reduce Federal Regulations On The Development Of Indian Lands To Expedite The Development Of Energy And A Bill That Would Adapt To Changing Crude Oil Market Conditions**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Byrne, R-Ala., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 466) that would provide for floor consideration of the bill (HR 538) that would reduce Federal regulations on the development of Indian lands to expedite the development of energy, and consideration of the bill (HR 702) to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions.” The motion was agreed to by a 244-183 vote. [CQ, [10/8/15](#); Ordering of Previous Question to H. Res. 466, Vote 541, [10/8/15](#)]

### **Dave Galt, ED Of Montana Petroleum Associate Supported Lifting The Ban On Crude Oil Exports**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke on Wednesday reiterated his support for two bills going before Congress this week that would lift the ban on crude oil exports and help tribes develop more of their natural resources. [...] Zinke said the bill has the support of Dave Galt, executive director of the Montana Petroleum Association. Galt, in a prepared statement, said lifting the ban lets American petroleum industry workers competes with others in the world and could help reduce the price of gasoline.” [Great Falls Tribune, [10/7/15](#)]

**Zinke: “We Can, In The Words Of Reagan, Challenge Russia And Put Russia In A Box By The Free Market Export Of Crude And Particularly Liquid Natural Gas Into Eastern Europe.”**

In July 2015 Zinke was interviewed on CNN. “ZINKE: Well, certainly, it’s time to send in the Marines. And I respect the general greatly. I think, with Russia, though, Putin is shrewd, he’s smart, and you can’t negotiate with Russia from weakness. But I think the soft underbelly of Russia is, what’s driving their ability to be aggressive is their energy. If you take the energy out of their economy, Russia is not so strong. And all of a sudden, U.S., we have liquid natural gas potential, we have an enormous amount of petroleum. We can, in the words of Reagan, challenge Russia and put Russia in a box by the free market export of crude and particularly liquid natural gas into Eastern Europe. I think that’s a check. We’re not going to put a carrier battle group in the Black Sea, but certainly I think we can check their aggressiveness with good old- fashioned free market.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [7/9/15](#)]

**Zinke: “We’re The Only Country In The World That Maintains A Ban Of Exporting Crude.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., is making his case for removing the national ban on crude exports. Zinke told journalists Wednesday the 1970s ban on exporting U.S. oil is hurting the economy, both nationally and in Montana. He estimated that increased Bakken activity resulting from oil exports would create 2,400 jobs in Montana, primarily in the Eastern Montana Oil Patch and Billings. ‘We’re the only country in the world that maintains a ban of exporting crude,’ Zinke said. ‘Even Iran can now export crude, and I think it’s time we move forward.’ [Billings Gazette, [10/7/15](#)]

**Zinke Said Lifting The Ban On Crude Oil Would Generate \$1.4 Billion To The Federal Government In The Next Decade From Oil And Gas Leases, Lower Gas Prices By As Much As 13 Cents Per Gallon, And Support Up To 964,000 Additional U.S. Jobs**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke on Wednesday reiterated his support for two bills going before Congress this week that would lift the ban on crude oil exports and help tribes develop more of their natural resources. [...] According to Zinke, it would generate \$1.4 billion to the federal government in the next decade from oil and gas leases, lower gas prices by as much as 13 cents per gallon, and support up to 964,000 additional U.S. jobs He said the United States is the only country in the world that bans the export of crude oil. He said it would give us economic leverage with the Middle East. And ‘It’s about jobs,’ he said adding one place where America can be competitive is energy. ‘I think we can harvest our energy potential in a responsible way,’ he said, adding numerous reports show lifting the sanctions will reduce costs at home.” [Great Falls Tribune, [10/7/15](#)]

**Voted For Lifting 40-Year Crude Oil Ban**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that would allow the export of crude oil produced in the United States by removing the export ban imposed by the 1975 Energy Policy and Conservation Act. “Most [Democrats], though, opposed Barton’s bill, arguing that its economic impact is overblown and that it will endanger jobs in the refining sector. They also cite environmental risks in pumping more oil for exports. ‘This legislation eagerly embraces short-term profits and benefits without understanding — or even considering — the cost of such a major action,’ Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-N.J.) said.” According to the Wall Street Journal, “The White House has threatened to veto the bill, saying it ‘is not needed at this time.’” The bill passed 261 to 159. [HR 702, [Vote #549](#), 10/09/15; The Hill, [10/09/15](#); Wall Street Journal, [10/09/15](#)]

**Zinke Requested a Hearing on the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2015**

“Today, U.S. Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S. (AZ-04) released the following statement after being joined by 34 members of the House in formally requesting the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources hold a hearing on H.R. 2663, the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2015.” Zinke signed the letter requesting a hearing. [Office of Rep. Paul Gosar, Press Release, [7/29/15](#)]

### **Voted for Amendment Prohibiting Increasing Royalties Paid to U.S. for Oil & Gas Produced on Federal Land**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for amendment to prohibit the use of funds to increase the rate of any royalty required to be paid to the United States for oil and gas produced on Federal land, or to prepare or publish a proposed rule relating to such an increase. “Finally, two amendments aimed to allow dirty energy companies to continue paying below-market rates for fossil fuels extracted from public lands. An amendment from Rep. Steve Pearce would prohibit any increase in the royalty rates paid for oil and gas.” The amendment passed, 231 to 198. [HR 2822, [Vote #408](#), 7/07/15; Huffington Post, [8/11/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Ending Prohibition Funds for Social Cost of Carbon to be Included in Rulemaking Until Revised Estimates**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against “an amendment to strike section 437, which prohibits the use of funds for the social cost of carbon to be incorporated into any rulemaking or guidance document until a new Interagency Working Group revises the estimates using the discount rates and domestic-only limitation on benefits estimates in accordance with Executive Order 12866.” The amendment failed 186 to 243. [HR 2822, [Vote #400](#), 7/08/15; H AMDT 571, [7/08/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment Removing a Limitation of FY 2016 EPA Funding Bill Updating Ozone Standards So That 85% of Counties Comply**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that struck section 438 from HR 2822, which provided for a limitation on the use of funds regarding ozone standards. Specially, the amendment would have removed “the bill’s limitation on EPA from updating its ozone standards until 85% of counties that do not meet the current standard come into compliance.” The amendment failed 249 to 180. [HR 2822, [H.AMDT.573](#), [Vote #401](#), 7/08/15; Congressional Quarterly’s House Action Reports, 7/08/15]

### **Voted Against An Amendment That Would Have Prevented Hydraulic Fracturing On Federal Land**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment “that would remove the bill’s prohibition on BLM from implementing its final rule governing fracking on federal lands.” Specifically, the amendment struck “section 439 from the bill which provides for prohibitions regarding hydraulic fracturing.” The amendment failed 250 to 179. [HR 2822, [H.AMDT.576](#), [Vote #402](#), 7/08/15; Congressional Quarterly’s House Action Reports, 7/08/15]

### **Voted For An Amendment That Would Allow Rules To Consider The Social Cost Of Carbon**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to “allow rules to consider the social cost of carbon.” Specifically, the amendment “prohibits the use of funds for the social cost of carbon to be incorporated into any rulemaking or guidance document until a new Interagency Working Group revises the estimates.” The amendment failed 237 to 192. [HR 2822, [H.AMDT.580](#), [Vote #403](#), 7/08/15; Congressional Quarterly’s House Action Reports, 7/08/15]

### **Voted Against An Amendment That Would Have Prioritized Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would have prioritized reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, the amendment would “prohibit funds from being used in contravention of an executive order establishing an integrated strategy towards sustainability in the federal government and making reduction of greenhouse gas emissions a priority.” The amendment failed 237 to 189. [HR 2822, [H.AMDT.588](#), [Vote #406](#), 7/08/15; Congressional Quarterly’s House Action Reports, 7/08/15]

### **Zinke Said U.S. Was Making Progress Towards Energy Independence, But Not Fast Enough**

“United States defense forces are endangered because the Defense Department bureaucracy is expanding and the number of active duty troops is on the decline. [...] Energy independence is one answer to the problem, he said. The United States is making progress, but not fast enough, at developing its own natural resources such as oil, he said.” [Havre Daily News, [6/29/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment Increasing Fees on Oil Companies for the Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 that would have “raised fees on oil companies to increase funding for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, which regulates oil pipelines.” The amendment failed 202 to 222. [HR 2577, [Vote #305](#), 6/04/15; Scripps Howard Foundation, [6/16/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Increasing Funding for Pipeline Safety By \$28M**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Capps, D-Calif., that would increase funding for pipeline safety by \$28 million, all of which would come from the Pipeline Safety Fund.” The amendment failed 202-222. [CQ, [6/4/15](#); H.Amdt.383 to H.R. 2577, Vote 305, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Continuing Goal of Reducing Imports of Foreign Energy, Through Energy Efficiency Technology**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015 maintaining greenhouse gas emission goals for ARPA-E projects. The amendment would strike a provision in the bill that removed Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) goals for pursuing the development of energy technologies to reduce foreign energy imports, the reduction of energy-related emissions, including greenhouse gases, and improvement in the energy efficiency of all economic sectors. The amendment failed, 190 to 232. [HR 1806, [Amendment #11](#), [Vote #256](#), 5/20/15; CQ, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment to Allow Commercial Biofuels Production for Defense Purposes**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment allowing DOE research funds to be used for commercial biofuels production for defense purposes. “Bonamici, D-Ore., amendment that would remove a provision in the bill that would bar funds authorized for an Energy Department bioenergy research program from being used to fund commercial biofuels production for defense purposes.” The amendment failed, 208 to 215. [HR 1806, [Amendment #10](#), [Vote #255](#), 5/20/15; Science Magazine, [5/20/15](#); CQ]

### **Voted for \$36.1B FY 2016 Energy & Water Approps**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would provide \$36.1 billion in fiscal 2016 to fund the Energy Department, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Interior Department’s Bureau of Reclamation and several regional water and power authorities. It would provide \$29.0 billion for the Energy Department, of which \$12.3 billion would be designated for the National Nuclear Security Administration. It also would provide \$5.6 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers and \$1.1 billion for the Interior Department’s Bureau of Reclamation.” The bill passed 240-177. [CQ, [5/1/15](#), H.R. 2028, Vote 215, [5/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Defund Agricultural Regulations On Activities That Were Exempt From Regulation Under Clean Water Act**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “LaMalfa, R-Calif., amendment that would prohibit funds made available under the act from being used to regulate agricultural activities identified as exemptions under certain sections of the Clean Water Act.” The amendment passed 239-174. [CQ, [5/1/15](#), H.Amdt.209 to H.R. 2028, Vote 212, [5/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Providing Funding For Water For Trinity River In Excess Of Previous Requirements, Or To Supplement Water Flows In Klamath River**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “LaMalfa, R-Calif., amendment that would prohibit funds made available under the act from being used to deliver water to the Trinity river above the minimum requirements of the Trinity Record of Decision or to supplement flows in the Klamath River.” The amendment passed 228-183. [CQ, [5/1/15](#), H.Amdt.210 to H.R. 2028, Vote 213, [5/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Increasing Funding \$30 Million For Drought Relief And State Electricity Energy Reliability**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against: “Bera, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would increase funding for drought relief and state electricity energy reliability and assurance by \$30 million. The cost would be offset by reducing policy and administration funding.” The motion was rejected 180-235. [CQ, [5/1/15](#), H.R. 2028, Vote 214, [5/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Defund Energy Department’s Climate Model Development And Validation Program**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Gosar, R-Ariz., amendment that would prohibit funds made available under the act from being used for the Energy Department’s Climate Model Development and Validation program.” The amendment passed 224-184. [CQ, [5/1/15](#), H.Amdt.203 to H.R. 2028, Vote 209, [5/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Reduce FY2016 Energy-Water Appropriations By 1%**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Blackburn, R-Tenn., amendment that would reduce each amount made available under the act by 1 percent.” The amendment was rejected 159-248. [CQ, [5/1/15](#), H.Amdt.206 to H.R. 2028, Vote 210, [5/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Providing Funding For California Instream Flow Water**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “McClintock, R-Calif., amendment that would prohibit funds made available under the act from being used to purchase water for the instream flow requirements in California that are mandated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act or the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.” The amendment passed 228-183. [CQ, [5/1/15](#), H.Amdt.208 to H.R. 2028, Vote 211, [5/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For Reducing Funding For 2016 Energy And Water Development Appropriations Act By \$129M & Applying It To The Spending Reduction Account**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for: “McClintock, R-Calif., amendment that would reduce funding for certain accounts and to apply the aggregate savings of \$129 million to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected 126-295. [CQ, [4/30/15](#), H.Amdt 159 to H.R. 2028, Vote 195, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Increasing Funding for Water & Related Resources By \$5M & Reducing Fossil Energy R & D by \$20M**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Ruiz, D-Calif., amendment that would increase funding for water and related resources by \$5 million and to reduce funding for fossil energy research and development by \$20 million.” The amendment was rejected by a 172-249 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt.162 to H.R. 2028, Vote 196, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Reduce Funding for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy by \$50M & Increase Fossil Energy R & D by \$50M**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Griffith, R-Va., amendment that would increase funding for fossil energy research and development by \$50 million and reduce funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy by a similar amount.” The amendment was rejected by a 177-244 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt.164 to H.R. 2028, Vote 197, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Increasing Funding for Energy Efficiency And Renewable Energy By \$26 Million And Reducing Funding For Fossil Energy By \$34 Million**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Swalwell, D-Calif., amendment that would increase funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy by \$26 million and reduce funding for fossil energy by \$34 million.” The amendment was rejected by a 173-248 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt.167 to H.R. 2028, Vote 198, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Eliminating Funding for Energy Efficiency And Renewable Energy**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against: “Byrne, R-Ala., amendment that would eliminate funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy and to apply the savings of \$1.7 billion to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected by a 139-282 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt.171 to H.R. 2028, Vote 199, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Eliminating Funding For Energy Efficiency And Renewable Energy Programs And Nuclear Energy And Fossil Fuel Research**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a: “McClintock, R-Calif., amendment that would eliminate funding for the energy efficiency and renewable energy program, nuclear energy and fossil fuel research and apply the \$3.2 billion savings to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected by a 110-311 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt.172 to H.R. 2028, Vote 200, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Reducing Funding For Fossil Energy Research And Development By \$45 Million**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Ellison, D-Minn., amendment that would reduce funding for fossil energy research and development by \$45 million and to apply the savings to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected by a 175-246 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt.174 to H.R. 2028, Vote 201, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Increasing Funding For The Advanced Research Projects Agency By \$20 Million**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Swalwell, D-Calif., amendment that would increase funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency by \$20 million and reduce funding for departmental administration by a similar amount.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 202-219. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt 178 to H.R. 2028, Vote 202, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Reducing National Nuclear Security Administration Weapons Activities By \$167 Million**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against: “Quigley, D-Ill., amendment that would reduce the National Nuclear Security Administration weapons activities by \$167 million and transfer the same amount to the spending reduction account. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 164-257. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt 180 to H.R. 2028, Vote 203, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Amendment Reducing The Atomic Energy Defense Activities National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities Account By \$25 Million**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Garamendi, D-Calif, amendment to reduce the Atomic Energy Defense Activities National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities Account by \$25 million and to apply the savings to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 149-272. [H.Amdt 181 to H.R. 2028, Vote 204, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Reduce Funds By 11% Except for NNSA, Environmental And Other Defense Activities, or Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Hudson, R-La., amendment that would reduce funds in the bill by 11 percent across the board, except for those designated for the National Nuclear Security Administration, Environmental and Other Defense Activities or Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 143-278. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt 188 to H.R. 2028, Vote 205, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Eliminate The Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Sanford, R-S.C., amendment that would eliminate all funds in the bill made available under the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, and would prohibit funds from being used to provide a loan under sec. 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 171-250. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt 190 to H.R. 2028, Vote 206, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit Funds To Enforce Energy Efficiency Standards For Incandescent Light Bulbs And Other Incandescent Light Sources**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Burgess, R-Texas, amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to implement or enforce energy efficiency standards regarding incandescent light bulbs and other incandescent light sources.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 232-189. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt. 192 to H.R. 2028, Vote 207, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Voted to Prohibit Funds to Consider Report Analyzing Life Cycle of Green House Gas Emissions & Interactions With LNG**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment prohibiting funding for the Department of Energy to consider report analyzing the life cycle of greenhouse gas emissions when making determinations on liquefied natural gas exports. “The chamber approved 232-172 a provision from Pennsylvania Republican Keith Rothfus that would bar funding for the Department of Energy to consider a report that analyzed the life cycle of greenhouse gas emissions when making determinations on liquefied natural gas exports.” The measure passed, 232 to 172. [H.R. 2028, [Vote #208](#), 5/01/15; CQ Roll Call, [5/01/15](#)]

### **Bill Kept Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Site From Being Completely Closed**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the Energy and Water Development bill, which contained funding to ensure that Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Site remained open. “House Republicans Friday passed the second of 12 spending bills for the upcoming budget year, a \$35 billion measure funding the Energy Department and popular water projects constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. ... The measure includes a big boost to modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal and also contains money that would keep the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site in Nevada from being completely shuttered, a challenge to Senate powerhouse Harry Reid, D-Nev., who has been largely responsible for blocking the project in the past.” The bill passed, 240 to 177. [H.R. 2028, [Vote #215](#), 5/01/15; Associated Press, [5/01/15](#)]

### **Bill Provided \$150 Million Towards Nuclear Waste Disposal Fund**

“The House passed its second 2016 appropriations bill on Friday, this time to fund the Department of Energy and water infrastructure projects. ... In total, the measure provides \$150 million for the Nuclear Waste Disposal Program.” [The Hill, [5/01/15](#)]

### **Bill Cut \$279 Million From Renewable Energy Programs**

“Fearing an escalation of nuclear weapons, Rep. John Garamendi, D-Walnut Grove, on Friday voted against HR 2028, a \$35.4 billion appropriations bill that also includes energy and water development projects. The bill passed, 240-177. ... Meanwhile, renewable energy programs are funded at only \$1.7 billion, a cut of \$279 million compared to FY 2015, Garamendi said. The bill also includes language that would weaken the Clean Water Act in some circumstances.” [Davis Enterprise, [5/03/15](#)]

### **Bill “Locks In Sequestration”**

“The House on Friday passed a spending bill that would boost funding for the nation’s weapons programs, Army Corps of Engineers projects and nuclear research, after beating back amendments that would drastically slash funding for various Department of Energy research programs. ... Democrats criticized spending levels and individual policy riders in the bill, including one that would bar the Obama administration from implementing its National Oceans Policy and another that would permanently block the White House from moving forward on the so-called clean water rule. But their main point of contention was the bill’s adherence to an overall spending framework that locks in sequestration.” [CQ Roll Call, [5/01/15](#)]

### **Bill Contained Rider Allowing Guns To Be Carried On All Corps Of Engineers’ Lands**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the Energy and Water Development bill, which contained a rider allowing guns to be carried on all Corps of Engineers’ Lands. “Some provisions in the House energy and water bill approved Friday range far afield, such as a so-called legislative ‘rider’ allowing guns to be carried on all Corps of

Engineers' lands. Citing the politically divisive firearms policy, among other reasons, the White House issued a veto threat against the legislation." The bill passed, 240 to 177. [H.R. 2028, [Vote #215](#), 5/01/15; San Jose Mercury News, [5/01/15](#)]

### **FY16 Water-Energy Appropriations Bill Increasing Funding For Weapons Programs, Army Corps Of Engineer Projects And Nuclear Research**

"The House on Friday passed a spending bill that would boost funding for the nation's weapons programs, Army Corps of Engineers projects and nuclear research, after beating back amendments that would drastically slash funding for various Department of Energy research programs. . . . Nearly all Democrats united to vote against the \$35.4 billion spending measure (HR 2028), which advanced by a vote of 240-177 after lawmakers debated amendments late into the night Thursday and early Friday." The bill passed, 240 to 177. [H.R. 2028, [Vote #215](#), 5/01/15; The Hill, [5/01/15](#)]

### **Voted for Amendment Reducing Approps in FY16 Energy & Water Bill by 11%**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment reducing appropriations in energy and water bill by 11%, with the National Nuclear Security Administration, Environmental, defense activities and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. "Hudson, R-La., amendment that would reduce funds in the bill by 11 percent across the board, except for those designated for the National Nuclear Security Administration, Environmental and Other Defense Activities or Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board." The amendment failed, 143 to 278. [H.R. 2028, [Vote #205](#), 4/30/15; CQ Floor Votes, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Amendment Would Have "Slashed Spending By 11.2% Across The Board"**

"The House on Friday passed a spending bill that would boost funding for the nation's weapons programs, Army Corps of Engineers projects and nuclear research, after beating back amendments that would drastically slash funding for various Department of Energy research programs. . . . Simpson and his allies were able to hold off a bevy of amendments seeking to drastically shift or cut funding in the bill, including one from North Carolina Republican Richard Hudson that would have slashed spending by 11.2 percent across the board." [CQ Roll Call, [5/01/15](#)]

### **Voted For Amendment Eliminating Funding For Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment eliminating funding for advanced technology vehicles program. "The House also rejected 171-250 an amendment by South Carolina Republican Mark Sanford to eliminate funding for the Energy Department's loan guarantee program for advanced technology vehicle manufacturing. Sanford argued that the program is dated and has outlived its purpose, but Energy-Water cardinal Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, said zeroing out its funding would hamper oversight of the \$8 billion in loans already doled out." The amendment failed, 171 to 250. [H.R. 2028, [Vote #206](#), 4/30/15; CQ Roll Call, 4/30/15]

### **Republican Rep. Mike Simpson Opposed Eliminating Funding, Believing It Would "Hamper Oversight Of The \$8 Billion In Loans Already Doled Out"**

"Sanford argued that the program is dated and has outlived its purpose, but Energy-Water cardinal Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, said zeroing out its funding would hamper oversight of the \$8 billion in loans already doled out." [CQ Roll Call, 4/30/15]

### **Zinke Said Montana Could Be a Leader in Achieving Energy Independence**

"Montana Senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester, along with Representative Ryan Zinke, are introducing legislation in the Senate and House to ensure the completion of two hydroelectric facilities in Montana [...] 'Montana can be a leader in the goal to achieve American energy independence, but in order to be successful, it is critical we do three things: Update our infrastructure; diversify our energy sources; and cut the red tape that slows down vital projects like the Clark Canyon and Gibson dams,' said Zinke. [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed Regulatory Atmosphere in Gulf of Mexico for Oil Drilling Would Not Change**

“At the roundtable discussion in Port Fourchon, a major offshore supply port on the Gulf, the congressional members heard complaints about the regulatory atmosphere created by the Obama administration. The members said they shared their concerns. [...] ‘I don’t think this administration will change one iota,’ said U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont. ‘It will be heavy seas. Navy perspective: batten your hatches.’ He is a former Navy Seal.” [AP, [4/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed More Regulations For Offshore Drilling, Said It Would “Create Another Layer Of Government” And “Another Layer Of Expertise, More Bodies, More Personnel.”**

“That said, Americans’ elected representatives in Congress didn’t like black-letter laws enough to pass any new ones to regulate offshore drilling. Reilly said he was disappointed and surprised by Congress’ lack of action on 10 of 11 recommendations by the Oil Spill Commission to tighten or update laws governing offshore operations. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, warned against that, too, during a recent trip to offshore rigs with Scalise. ‘What we’re going to do is create another layer of government,’ Zinke said. ‘And yet another layer of expertise, more bodies, more personnel, and pretty soon you have bird-watchers watching bird-watchers.’” [WWLTV, [4/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed If America Exported Liquid Natural Gas “Russia Would Not Be As Aggressive.”**

[00:02:16] Zinke said, “We need to stop being held hostage by foreign entities. Look at the problems we have in the Middle East. It would give us a lot more flexibility if we were energy independent. Certainly Russia would not be as aggressive if you could export liquid natural gas. If you took the liquid natural gas portfolio out of Russian economy, there a different country.” [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [4/9/15](#); WWL, 4/9/15] (VIDEO)

### **Cole Halliburton, President at Halliburton Operating Company Tweeted Zinke**

Cole Halliburton tweeted, “[RepRyanZinke](#) You go Congressman. We need more folks like you in DC.” [Twitter, RepRyanZinke, [3/9/15](#)]

### **Voted for Requiring Expedited Consideration of LNG Export Permit Applications**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for legislation that “would require the Energy Department to make a decision on pending applications to export liquefied natural gas within 30 days of the bill’s enactment or at the end of the public comment period, whichever is later. Under the bill, applications would have to publicly disclose the countries that would receive the proposed exports. It also would authorize the U.S. Court of Appeals for the circuit where the proposed export facility will be located to exercise original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action pertaining to such applications. The court would be required to order the Energy Department to approve any applications within 30 days if it finds the agency did not issue a decision by the bill’s deadline.” [HR 351, [Vote #50](#), 1/28/15; CQ]

### **Voted Against Prohibiting LNG Exports to State Sponsors of Terrorism**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would prohibit LNG exports to any nation that is a state sponsor of terrorism, or to any nation or corporation that engages in cyber-attacks against the United States, and would ensure that U.S. flagged and built ships are used to export LNG. The motion to recommit failed, 175-237. [HR 351, [Vote #49](#), 1/28/15; Democratic Leader – Motions to Recommit, [1/22/15](#)]

### **Voted for Expedited Permitting for Natural Gas Pipeline Projects**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that “would require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve or deny a natural gas pipeline project within one year after receiving a completed application. Federal agencies responsible for issuing permits would have to issue a ruling within 90 days of when FERC issues its final environmental statement for the project. Under the bill, FERC could extend that period for another 30 days. The bill would provide that if a federal agency does not rule within the required time period, the permit will be deemed approved 30 days later.” The bill passed, 253 to 169. [HR 161, [Vote #41](#), 1/21/15; CQ]

### **Voted Against Holding Pipeline Owners Liable for Explosions**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to recommit that would require that natural gas pipeline owners, not taxpayers, are liable for any damages, repair, and clean-up in the wake of a natural gas pipeline explosion. [HR 161, [Vote #40](#), 1/21/15; Democratic Leader – Motions to Recommit, [1/21/15](#)]

### **Voted for Approving the Keystone XL Pipeline**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for approving the Keystone XL pipeline. “The House voted Friday to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, seizing on the momentum from a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling hours earlier that removed the last major legal obstacle to building the politically charged oil project.” The bill passed 266 to 153. [HR 3, [Vote #16](#), 1/09/15; Politico, [1/09/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said It Was A “Tragedy” TransCanada Asked Kerry to Pause the Review of Its Application for the Keystone XL Infrastructure Project**

“On Monday, November 2, TransCanada, the company attempting to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline asked Secretary of State John Kerry to pause the review of its application for that infrastructure project. Montana’s congressman Ryan Zinke described the request as ‘a tragedy.’ ‘It’s a tragedy,’ Zinke said. ‘It would help with energy independence, which has been a long standing goal for this country. Our neighbors to the north are our closest allies, and have been. There is no environmental, by our state department’s own report, there is no significant environmental risk to it.’ Some have described the request as a tactical move by TransCanada that would delay the approval process until a new U.S. President took office. Zinke also indicated that a new president would be needed to get the pipeline built. ‘I think we have turned our backs, to a degree, on Canada, and I think its a travesty,’ Zinke said. ‘With a republican president I’m hoping it returns, but also these companies that are in charge of it, they look at it as an investment, you know, billions of dollars on the table, they can can’t continue this perpetuity.’ Montana Senator Steve Daines also signaled his disappointment over Keystone XL yesterday, blaming the Obama Administration for waging ‘a full on assault on American energy independence.’ [KGVO, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “There Is No Significant Environmental Risk to [Keystone XL Pipeline].”**

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### **Zinke Said America Turned Its “Back” On Canada By Not Approving the Keystone XL Pipeline**

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and I think its a travesty,' Zinke said. 'With a republican president I'm hoping it returns, but also these companies that are in charge of it, they look at it as an investment, you know, billions of dollars on the table, they can't continue this perpetuity.' Montana Senator Steve Daines also signaled his disappointment over Keystone XL yesterday, blaming the Obama Administration for waging 'a full on assault on American energy independence.'" [KGVO, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "With A Republican President I'm Hoping [Canadian Investment] Returns" To The Keystone XL Pipeline**

"On Monday, November 2, TransCanada, the company attempting to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline asked Secretary of State John Kerry to pause the review of its application for that infrastructure project. Montana's congressman Ryan Zinke described the request as 'a tragedy.' 'It's a tragedy,' Zinke said. 'It would help with energy independence, which has been a long standing goal for this country. Our neighbors to the north are our closest allies, and have been. There is no environmental, by our state department's own report, there is no significant environmental risk to it.' Some have described the request as a tactical move by TransCanada that would delay the approval process until a new U.S. President took office. Zinke also indicated that a new president would be needed to get the pipeline built. 'I think we have turned our backs, to a degree, on Canada, and I think its a travesty,' Zinke said. 'With a republican president I'm hoping it returns, but also these companies that are in charge of it, they look at it as an investment, you know, billions of dollars on the table, they can't continue this perpetuity.' Montana Senator Steve Daines also signaled his disappointment over Keystone XL yesterday, blaming the Obama Administration for waging 'a full on assault on American energy independence.'" [KGVO, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said POTUS Was "Making Phony Claims About The [Environmental] Impact of the Keystone."**

"Today President Obama announced he would reject the Keystone XL Pipeline citing environmental concerns, despite his own State Department's 2014 environmental impact study finding the pipeline would not have an impact on the climate. The proposed pipeline would run through Montana and have an on ramp in Baker. Rep. Zinke was an original cosponsor of legislation to build the Keystone XL Pipeline which passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support before the President vetoed earlier this year. The following statement is from Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke. 'President Obama turned his back on Montana, turned his back on American workers, and turned his back on our closest neighbor and ally, Canada. And for what? President Obama is making phony claims about the impact of the Keystone that his own State Department says is not true. A 2014 environmental impact study by the State Department concluded the Keystone would not have a negative impact on the environment. That's a fact. But this president would rather use the 40,000 jobs and American energy independence as a political football to score points with donors leading into a tough election year. It's just wrong. The President is 100 percent wrong on Keystone and every candidate who sides with him on this will pay the price on Election Day because the American people are fed up with it.'" [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [11/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed the President's Veto of the Keystone Pipeline, Would Pursue Other Avenues to Push the Project Forward**

"President Barack Obama's announcement of a veto of the XL Keystone Pipeline project didn't go over well with Montana's delegation on Tuesday. [...] U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said, 'President Obama chose Middle Eastern oil and coastal special interests over Montana jobs and North American energy independence. The people of Montana have been waiting for six years for Washington to quit playing politics with our jobs and our energy, and finally build the Keystone XL pipeline. During that time we have seen multiple incidents in shipping oil through less safe forms of transport. These events underscore the importance upgrading our energy infrastructure with the safest and most reliable pipelines, like the Keystone XL. Multiple studies, including those by the Obama Administration, have found the pipeline to be a safe and environmentally responsible form of transport, and an economic engine for the region. While I'm not surprised at the president's veto, I'm still disappointed.'" [Sidney Herald, [3/1/15](#)]

## **Zinke Said Construction of the Keystone Pipeline & the Creation of the Gateway Pacific Terminal Would Get Montana Wheat Sold to Taiwan to Port Faster**

“Taiwan will purchase 1.7 million tons of U.S. wheat over the next two years, with much of it coming from Montana. Taiwan Flour Mills Association committed to the purchase Wednesday while visiting with wheat state lawmakers in Washington, D.C. Montana Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke and Democrat Sen. Jon Tester were at the event and witnessed the agreement. [...] Zinke used the occasion to emphasize the importance of unimpeded grain shipments from Montana to port. He called for the approved construction of the Keystone XL pipeline to reduce oil-by-rail traffic and the creation of the Gateway Pacific Terminal in Puget Sound, Wash. The port would handle coal and farm commodities. Taiwan buys its grain by soliciting bids for wheat every two weeks. Meeting the those bids means getting Montana wheat to port on time, Zinke said. He plans to bring the House Agriculture Committee Chairman K. Michael Conaway, R-Texas, to Montana to discuss ag issues.” [Billings Gazette, [9/16/15](#)]

## **Zinke Claimed “Building The Keystone Will Mean Safer Transport Of Oil, More Rail Capacity For Agriculture Goods, And Good Paying Construction Jobs.”**

“Last Friday, the Obama administration announced tougher regulations on trains carrying crude oil. Rather than denying the facts that state of the art pipelines, like the Keystone XL, are the safest way to transport oil (even the State Department found it to be safe), President Obama should hear the call of the American people and finally allow the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Updating our energy infrastructure by building the Keystone will mean safer transport of oil, more rail capacity for agriculture goods, and good paying construction jobs.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [5/4/15](#)]

## **Zinke Responsible for Marketing, Lobbying on Behalf of Energy Company linked to Keystone**

### **Served on the Board of Directors for Save the World Air**

Zinke serves on the Board of Save the World Air (STWA), an energy company that paid Zinke \$85,000 in directors fees in 2013. [Personal Financial Disclosure, [3/06/14](#)]

### **Had Contract with Save the World Air to Act as a “Government Liaison”**

According to a Securities and Exchange Commission report, Zinke had a contract with Save the World Air to do marketing for SWTA, facilitating introductions and act as a “state government liaison” toward the governor and the Energy Administration. [[SEC report](#)]

### **Holds Stock in Save the World Air**

In July 2013, Zinke purchased 22, 936 shares from Save the World Air Inc, worth between \$15,001 and \$50,000. [Market Watch, [7/22/13](#); Personal Financial Disclosure, [3/06/14](#)]

## **Save the World Air May Financially Gain from Keystone Approval**

In 2013, Save the World Air (STWA) entered into an Equipment Lease Option to Purchase Agreement with TransCanada Keystone Pipeline. The lease was effective until October 15, 2014. During the lease period, TransCanada installed and tested STWA’s technology. [MarketWatch, [11/0/14](#)]

## **Said “Crisis in Ukraine” Would Be Different if the U.S. Were “Energy Independent”**

In March 2014, Zinke said that the “current crisis in Ukraine would look a lot different if [the] United States was energy independent.” Zinke said, “I can tell you that our forced disposition overseas and the current crisis in Ukraine would look a lot different if [the] United States was energy independent and we can be.” [Montana Standard, 3/05/14]

## **Wanted an “Abundant” Energy Program**

In January 2014, speaking at Hometown Helena, Zinke said that “cheap, abundant energy will bring back manufacturing.” Zinke said, “You cannot power this country on pixie dust and hope. Cheap, abundant energy will bring back manufacturing.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

### **Proponent of Keystone XL Pipeline**

After President Obama's State of the Union address in January 2014, Zinke affirmed his support of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Zinke said, "The building of the Keystone XL Pipeline represents not only tens of thousands of jobs for Montana, but increased economic development up and down the United States. Though he's had more than five years to make a decision, he continues to sit on the sidelines while Montanans have increasingly needed these shovel-ready, high paying jobs. It's time for President Obama to end our dependence on foreign oil, promote free market growth, and put Montanans back to work." [Hungry Horse News, 1/29/14]

### **Said He Would Camp Out in Front of EPA Over Energy Independence**

At a Meet and Greet in January 2014, Zinke said that energy independence was a priority and that he would "camp out in front of the EPA and be a thorn in their side every day." Zinke said, "Priorities? Energy independence. I'll camp out in front of the EPA and be a thorn in their side every day if I have to. And they're not going to like it." [YouTube, [HYPERLINK](#)

"<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv6KpJJyhpc&feature=youtu.be>" [1/28/14](#)]

### **Mocked Domestic Alternative Energy**

In December 2013, on the *Voices of Montana* radio program, Zinke mocked domestic alternative energy by saying said that "to think you're going to get out of energy independence on wind power or solar, is tantamount to pixie dust and hope." Zinke said, "To think you're going to get out of energy independence on wind power or solar, is tantamount to pixie dust and hope. So fossil fuels, like it or not, are going to be a big, big part of the economy." [Voices of Montana, 12/11/13]

### **...BUT Indicated Support for Increased Use of Alternative Fuel**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for increased use of alternative fuel technology. Zinke said, "I believe the use of alternate energy sources and clean coal is preferred over petroleum based fuels. In some cases, Federal law falls short, in other cases Federal law is too stringent." [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Called for Energy Independence in Five Years**

In October 2013, while announcing his campaign for Congress, Zinke said he will "fight a national commitment to become energy independent in five years." Zinke said, "We need to focus on accelerating North American production, develop our infrastructure with pipelines, roads, sewer systems and a working communication network. I will fight a national commitment to become energy independent in five years." [Daily Inter Lake, 10/21/13]

### **Voted to Block Renewable Energy Portfolio in Committee**

On February 21, 2011, Zinke voted against brining a bill to increase Montana's renewable energy portfolio to the Committee as a Whole. The vote failed (22-28). [[SB 332](#), [2/21/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Studying Taxation of Oil & Natural Gas Property**

In April 2009, Zinke voted against appointing a subcommittee to conduct a study of the classification, valuation, and taxation of oil and natural gas property. The bill passed (46-4). [[HB 657](#), [4/17/09](#)]

### **Voted Against Increasing Tax Credit for Energy Conserving Expenditures**

In March 2009, Zinke voted against increasing the individual income tax credit for energy conserving expenditures. The bill passed (29-21). [[SB 37](#), [3/26/09](#)]

### **Supported Increased Production of Traditional Domestic Energy Sources**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for increased production of traditional domestic energy sources, such as coal, natural gas, and oil. Zinke said, "I support increased coal production for electrical generation and believe it can and should be done with adequate environmental safeguards." [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **Supported Funding Improvements for Montana's Power Generating Facilities**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for funding for improvements to Montana's power generating and transmission facilities. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- ✓ Zinke has repeatedly received failing scores, even one 3%, from environmental groups such as the League of Conservation Voters.
- ✓ He repeatedly voted against funding for the EPA and other environmental programs such as the Bureau of Land Management fund, inland oil spill programs, and vote to prevent allowing the EPA to update its ozone standards.
- ✓ CLIMATE CHANGE: He voted to delay EPA emissions rules for hazardous air pollutants, opposed carbon pollution rules, and sought to postpone them. He sought to prevent further research and understanding of climate change by voting to prohibit funding for the Energy Dept.'s climate models program (ironically, referred to as redundant by the amendment sponsor). In the state legislature, he voted to urge Congress to stop the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases and to indefinitely postpone a bill to evaluate climate change. ...However, in 2010, Zinke reportedly wrote a letter to the President calling on him to address climate change.
- ✓ ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS: Zinke voted to modify the environmental review process for federally-funded projects and permits for private projects with the effect of limiting the governments ability to review and regulate these projects – the RAPID Act.
- ✓ EPA: He claimed the EPA “broke the law by launching ‘covert propaganda’ campaigns in order to push its anti-Montana agenda.” He claimed the EPA’s Clean Power Plan would kill jobs in Montana, supported a plan to cut their budget by 9%, and voted for the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act.
- ✓ FRACKING: Zinke touted fracking and horizontal drilling as “absolute game changers” and opposed legislation banning fracking on public land. He said, “There hasn’t been an accident in fracking once” and declared it was safe. He frequently opposed rules or regulations for safe fracking. He even declared, God “gave us fracking, and that’s a good thing.”
- ✓ SUPERFUND: Zinke opposed a Superfund designation at Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site, favoring “a locally-driven solution.”
- ✓ Zinke called himself “a Teddy Roosevelt Republican... I am about conservation.”

### Zinke Got a 3% from League of Conservation Voters

For his votes in 2015, the League of Conservation Voters gave Zinke a 3 percent for environmental votes on it’s congressional score card. Juanita Vero, Montana Conservation Voters board chairwoman said, “Once again, too many members of Congress were complicit in attacks on both bedrock environmental laws and more recent progress to protect our air, water, public lands and wildlife.” The Great Falls Tribune noted, “[Vero] accused Daines and Zinke of putting their agenda ahead of the health of Treasure State residents and its outdoor heritage. However, she said Tester consistently stood up against the ‘radical attacks.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/26/16; LCV website, accessed [3/10/16](#)]

**2011: Received a 45% Rating From the Montana Audubon**

In 2011, Zinke received a 45 percent rating from the Montana Audubon, whose mission is to “promote appreciation, knowledge and conservation of Montana’s native birds, other wildlife, and natural ecosystems to safeguard biological diversity for current and future generations. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#); Montana Audubon, accessed [6/16/14](#)]

**2009: Received a 50% Rating From the Montana Audubon**

In 2009, Zinke received a 50 percent rating from the Montana Audubon. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**2011: Received a 55% from the Northern Plains Resource Council**

In 2011, Zinke received a 55 percent rating from the Northern Plains Resource Council. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**2009: Received a 45% from the Northern Plains Resource Council**

In 2009, Zinke received a 45 percent rating from the Northern Plains Resource Council. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**2011: Received a 60% from the Montana Conservation Voters**

In 2011, Zinke received a 60 percent rating from the Montana Conservation Voters. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**2009: Received a 54% from the Montana Conservation Voters**

In 2009, Zinke received a 54 percent rating from the Montana Conservation Voters. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**2009: Received a 40% from the Montana Environmental Information Center**

In 2009, Zinke received a 60 percent rating from the Montana Environmental Information Center. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**2009: Received a 60% From the Montanans for Multiple Use**

In 2009, Zinke received a 60 percent rating from the Montanans for Multiple Use. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**APPROPS - DEPT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT 2016****Zinke Voted Against Increasing Funding for BLM Land Fund By \$4M, Reducing U.S. Fish And Wildlife Land Management Fund**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Garamendi, D-Calif., amendment that would increase funding for the Bureau of Land Management’s Land Management fund by \$4 million, offset by an equal reduction to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Land Management.” The amendment was rejected by 181-244. [CQ, [7/8/15](#), H.Amdt.535 to H.R. 2822, Vote 393, [7/8/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted Against Increasing Funding for EPA Inland Oil Spill Programs by \$5M, Reducing Funding for Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Capps, D-Calif., amendment that would increase funding for EPA Inland Oil Spill Programs by \$5 million, offset by an equal reduction to the Interior Department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.” The amendment was rejected 184-243. [CQ, [7/8/15](#), H.Amdt.544 to H.R. 2822, Vote 394, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Increase Funding for Interior Dept Insular Affairs By \$5M, Paid for by Reducing Funding for Interior Dept Operations**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Sablan, D-N. Marianas, amendment that would increase funding for Interior Department Insular Affairs by \$5 million, offset by an equal reduction to Interior Department operations.” The amendment was rejected by 183-245. [CQ, [7/8/15](#), H.Amdt.549 to H.R. 2822, Vote 395, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Increasing Funding for EPA Environmental Programs by \$3M, Paid For By Reducing Funding For Interior Department Operations**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Castor, D-Fla., amendment that would increase funding for EPA Environmental Programs and Management by \$2 million, offset by an equal reduction to Interior Department operations.” The amendment was rejected by 188-239. [CQ, [7/8/15](#), H.Amdt.550 to H.R. 2822, Vote 396, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Removing A Prohibition On Stream Buffers**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on stream buffers.” The amendment was rejected 189-239. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.567 to H.R.2822, Vote 397, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Removing A Limitation On Funds For National Ocean Policy**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Tsongas, D-Mass., amendment that would remove the bill’s limitation on funds for National Ocean Policy.” The amendment was rejected 191-238. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.568 to H.R.2822, Vote 398, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Coastal And Marine Spatial Planning Was Recommended By Task Force On Ocean Policy Started By President Obama**

“On June 12, 2009, President Obama signed a memorandum establishing the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, led by the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Then, on July 19, 2010, this task force released a set of final recommendations that set a new direction for improved stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.” [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, accessed [10/21/15](#)]

### **Costal And Marine Spatial Planning Involves Agencies Working Together And Sharing Information To Preserve Coasts And Ocean Ecosystems**

“Coastal and marine spatial planning—or marine planning—is a science-based tool that regions can use to address specific ocean management challenges and advance their goals for economic development and conservation. Just as federal agencies work with states, tribes, local governments, and others to manage forests, grasslands, and other areas, they also can use marine planning to coordinate activities among all coastal and ocean interests and provide the opportunity to share information. This process is designed to decrease user conflict, improve planning and regulatory efficiencies, decrease associated costs and delays, engage affected communities and stakeholders, and preserve critical ecosystem functions and services.” [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, accessed [10/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Removing Vacant Grazing Allotments Available to Permits Holders Where Lands Are Unusable Because of Drought or Wildfire**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment that would remove the bill’s requirement that vacant grazing allotments be made available to permits holders where their lands are unusable because of drought or wildfire.” The amendment was rejected 178-251. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.570 to H.R.2822, Vote 399, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Allowing Rules To Consider The Social Cost Of Carbon**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Polis, D-Colo., amendment that would allow rules to consider the social cost of carbon.” The amendment was rejected 186-243. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.571 to H.R.2822, Vote 400, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Removing Limit on EPA from Updating Its Ozone Standards Until 85% of Counties Outside the Current Standard Come Into Compliance**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Edwards, D-M.D., amendment that would remove the bill’s limitation on EPA from updating its ozone standards until 85 percent of counties that do not meet the current standard come into compliance.” The amendment was rejected 180-249. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.573 to H.R.2822, Vote 401, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Removing a Prohibition on BLM From Implementing Its Final Rule Governing Fracking Rules On Federal Lands**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Lawrence, D-Mich., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on the Bureau of Land Management from implementing its final rule governing fracking on federal lands.” The amendment was rejected 179-250. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.576 to H.R. 2822, Vote 402, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Reiterate Current Law That Federal Lands Shall Only Be Disposed Of If In The Public Interest**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Polis, D-Colo., amendment that would reiterate current law that federal lands shall only be disposed of if in the public interest.” The amendment was rejected 192-237. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.580 to H.R. 2822, Vote 403, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Allowing Sage Grouse to Be Listed As An Endangered Species, Removing Gray Wolf Rule & the Northern Long Eared Bat**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Tsongas, D-Mass., amendment that would allow for the sage grouse to be listed as an Endangered Species, remove the bill’s requirement that a new rule be issued concerning the gray wolf and the northern long eared bat.” The amendment was rejected 186-243. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.582 to H.R.2822, Vote 404, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Removing A Prohibition On Rulemaking For Ivory Sales That Were Lawfully Imported Into The U.S.**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on rulemaking for ivory sales that were lawfully imported into the United States.” The amendment was rejected 183-244. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.584 to H.R. 2822, Vote 405, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Blocking Funds in Contravention Of An Executive Order Establishing An Integrated Strategy Towards Sustainability**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Beyer, D-Va., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used in contravention of an executive order establishing an integrated strategy towards sustainability in the federal government and making reduction of greenhouse gas emissions a priority.” The amendment was rejected 189-237. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.588 to H.R. 2822, Vote 406, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Reduce All Funding For FY16 Interior-Environment Appropriations By 1%**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Blackburn, R-Tenn., amendment that would reduce all funding in the bill by 1 percent.” The amendment failed 168-258. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.589 to H.R. 2822, Vote 407, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit Increasing The Royalty Rate Paid To The United States For Oil And Gas Produced On Federal Land**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Pearce, R-N.M., amendment that would prohibit increasing the royalty rate required to be paid to the United States for oil and gas produced on federal land.” The amendment was adopted 231-198. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.591 to H.R. 2822, Vote 408, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit National Monuments From Being Declared In Specific Counties In Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, And Utah**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Hardy, R-Nev., amendment that would prohibit national monuments from being declared in the counties of Mohave and Coconino in the state of Arizona, in the counties of Modoc and Siskiyou in the state of California, in the counties of Chaffee, Moffat and Park in the state of New Mexico in the counties of Jackson, Josephine and Malheur in the state of Oregon, or in counties of Wayne, Garfield and Kane in the state of Utah.” The amendment was adopted 222-206. [CQ, [7/8/15](#); H.Amdt.597 to H.R. 2822, Vote 409, [7/8/15](#)]

## **CLIMATE CHANGE & AIR POLLUTION**

### **Zinke Voted to Delay EPA National Emission Standards Rule for Some Hazardous Air Pollutants**

In March 2016, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would delay compliance dates for the Environmental Protection Agency’s 2015 rule that set national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants for the manufacturing of brick, structural clay products and clay ceramics. The bill would delay compliance dates until completion of judicial reviews in which legal actions were filed within 60 days of the final rule’s publication in the Federal Register. The bill also would apply to any final rule that succeeds or changes the 2015 rule.” The bill passed by 238-163. [CQ, [3/3/16](#), H.R. 4557, Vote 109, [3/3/16](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Obama’s Unilateral Pledge Of U.S. Taxpayer Funds To The United Nations’ Green Climate Fund**

“In a letter led by Congressman Morgan Griffith (R-VA) to House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) and Ranking Member Nita Lowey (D-NY), 110 Members of Congress express their opposition to President Obama’s unilateral pledge of U.S. taxpayer funds to the United Nations’ Green Climate Fund, especially if any international climate agreement emerging from the upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris is not brought before Congress for approval. The Green Climate Fund is a fund for developing nations that was launched in 2009 with the goal of raising \$100 billion a year in financing. In their letter, the Representatives highlight that Congress has never authorized funding for this fund. Yet without the consent of Congress and despite serious domestic budget constraints, President Obama unilaterally pledged \$3 billion in U.S. taxpayer funding for the Green Climate Fund.” Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Rep. Morgan Griffith, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Require EPA Incentives Provided to Electric Vehicles Also Provided to Natural Gas Vehicles**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Mullin, R-Okla., amendment that would require the Environmental Protection Agency’s administrator to ensure that preference or incentives provided to electric vehicles would also be provided to natural gas vehicles, and to revise regulations as necessary to do so.” The amendment passed by 246-178. [CQ, [11/5/15](#), H.Amdt.822 to H.R.22, Vote 620, [11/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Jt. Res. Disapproving of Rule on Carbon Pollution Guidelines for Electric Utility Generating Units**

In September 2015, Zinke cosponsored: ‘A joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ‘Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units.’ [CQ, Accessed [10/1/15](#); H.J. Res 67, Co-sponsored 9/29/15, Introduced [9/29/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Preventing Environmental Impact Processes That Do Not Address Risks Associated with Climate Change**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against amendment that “sought to prevent further evaluation or adoption of an alternative that does not adequately address risks associated with flooding, wildfire, and climate change.” The amendment “would reform the review process for the environmental impact of federally-funded construction projects. The goal of these reforms would be to streamline the review process under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. The bill also would prohibit the consideration of the ‘social cost of carbon’ in any environmental review or decision making process.” The bill failed, 170 to 228. [[H Amdt 699](#), [Vote #508](#), 9/25/15; Govtrack, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed POTUS Plan To Cut Power Plant Emissions Over The Next 15 Yrs Because It Would Drive Up Energy Costs**

“Thirty-four Montana lawmakers have sent a letter to Gov. Steve Bullock saying they support President Barack Obama’s plan to cut power plant emissions over the next 15 years. [...] The Republican members of the state’s congressional delegation oppose the federal mandate. U.S. Sen. Steve Daines said it would likely lead to closing the coal-fired Colstrip Power Plant, and U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke predicted it would drive up energy costs.” [AP, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Letter Challenged National Emission Standards For Hazardous Air Pollutants for Clay Ceramics Manufacturing**

“U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, and U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn), vice chairman of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, today led a bicameral letter with 18 other members of Congress, which included three committee and subcommittee chairmen, to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Adm. Gina McCarthy challenging the agency’s National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Clay Ceramics Manufacturing rule.” Zinke signed the letter. [Sen. Committee on Environment and Public Works, Press Release, [7/14/15](#)]

### **Voted for Postponing Enforcement of EPA Carbon Emission Reduction Rules Until Completion of All Judicial Challenges**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for “passage of a bill that would postpone the dates by when states and existing fossil-fuel power plants must comply with current or future EPA rules to reduce carbon emissions until all judicial challenges are completed, and it allows state governors to opt out of developing an emissions reduction plan or complying with a federal plan for existing plants if he or she determines that the requirement would have an adverse effect on electricity ratepayers.” The bill passed 247 to 180. A “nay” was a vote in support of the president’s position. [HR 2042, [Vote #384](#), 6/24/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/24/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Requiring Clean Power Plan Opt Out to Include Certification Electric Generator Contribute to Climate Change**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015. “Amendment sought to require a Governor wishing to opt out of the Clean Power Plan to include a certification that electric generating units are sources of carbon pollution that contribute to human-induced climate change; and that the state or federal plan to reduce carbon emissions from electric generating units would promote national security, economic growth and public health by addressing human induced climate change through the increased use of clean energy, energy efficiency and reductions in carbon pollution.” The amendment failed 181 to 245. [HR 2042, [H.AMDT.526](#), [Vote #381](#), 6/24/15]

### **Voted Against Requiring Governors Certify Clean Power Plan Electricity Rate Increases Are Greater Than Human-Induced Climate Change Weather Events**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015. “EPA Carbon Emission Rules — Governor Certification On Weather Events Rush, D-Ill., amendment that would require a

governor's certification that any ratepayer increase associated with implementing a state or federal plan would be greater than any cost associated with responding to extreme weather events associated with human-caused climate change, including sea level rise, flooding, frequent and intense storms, frequent and intense wildfires or drought." The amendment failed 182 to 243. [HR 2042, [H.AMDT.527](#), [Vote #382](#), 6/24/15; CQ Billtrack, [6/24/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Replacing Opt Out of Clean Power Plan with Requirement Public Utility Commissions Issue Reliability Analysis on Carbon Emission Plans**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015. "EPA Carbon Emission Rules — Judicial Review of EPA Carbon Rules McNerney, D-Calif., amendment that would remove the bill's requirements that EPA's rules are to be delayed pending to resolution of all judicial reviews and instead require a state's public utility commission to conduct an analysis of any state or federal plan." The amendment failed 177 to 250. [HR 2042, [Vote #383](#), 6/24/15; CQ Billtrack, [6/24/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Praised SCOTUS Decision on President's Clean Power Plan, Calling the Plan "a Gross Abuse of Executive Power"**

In 2016, Zinke said on the Supreme Court's issuing a stay on the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan, "Families in Colstrip can breathe a sigh of relief now that the Supreme Court has reaffirmed what Montanans have known for a long time: President Obama's global warming regulations are a gross abuse of executive power and are downright unconstitutional. As Montanans, we all want clean water and clean air, but that doesn't mean we should lock up our state's vast energy resources. Economic development and responsible conservation are not mutually exclusive goals. Montana is home to more than a third of the nation's recoverable coal reserves, enough to power our economy for 100 years. Advances in clean coal technology have made it possible to develop our resources in a responsible manner, providing us with affordable electricity and low emissions." [Sidney Herald, 2/17/16]

#### **Zinke Voted to Prevent Greenhouse Gas Report from Being Utilized In Official Capacity By The Energy Department**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: Rothfus, R-Pa., amendment that would prohibit funds made available under the act from being used by the Energy Department to apply the June 4, 2014 report entitled 'Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas from the United States' in any public interested determination under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act." The amendment passed 232-172. [CQ, [5/1/15](#), H.Amdt.199 to H.R. 2028, Vote 208, [5/1/15](#)]

#### **Voted for Prohibiting Funding for Energy Department's Climate Models Program**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for amendment prohibiting funding for the Energy Department's climate models program. "The House has passed an amendment sponsored by Rep. Paul A. Gosar, R-Arizona, to the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The amendment would bar funding for the Energy Department's Climate Model Development and Validation program. Gosar said funding Energy's 'duplicative and wasteful' climate modeling effort was not central to Energy's mission and was redundant, given an abundance of other global climate models being adopted by other U.S. and foreign governments and private businesses." The amendment passed, 224 to 184. [H.R. 2028, [Vote #209](#), 5/01/15; Bangor Daily News, [5/08/15](#)]

#### **CQ Roll Call: Program "Evaluates Predictive Models of the Earth's Climate"**

"Nearly all Democrats united to vote against the \$35.4 billion spending measure (HR 2028), which advanced by a vote of 240-177 after lawmakers debated amendments late into the night Thursday and early Friday. ... Lawmakers also approved an amendment 224-184 that would bar funding for a DOE program that evaluates predictive models of the Earth's climate." [CQ Roll Call, [5/01/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Keep Prohibition of DOE Approval of Climate Change Initiatives Not Reviewed for Duplicative Government**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Lowenthal, D-Calif., amendment that would remove a provision in the bill that would require a Government Accountability Office report identifying certain overlapping climate science-related initiatives. It also would remove a provision that would prohibit the director of the Energy Department’s Office of Science from approving new climate science-related initiatives without making a determination that such work is unique and not duplicative of work by other federal agencies.” The amendment was rejected by 187-236. [CQ, [5/20/15](#), H.Amdt.250 to H.R. 1806, Vote 254, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Climate Change Existed But The Degree of Human Influence Was Unknown**

“Greg Findley, the CEO of Detour, an adventure travel company, asked Zinke, a supporter of coal mining in Montana, what his view was on climate change. Zinke said yes, the climate is changing, it’s always changing, and that the degree of human influence is unknown. ‘Something is going on. And so I think you need to be prudent, but it doesn’t mean you need to be destructive on fossil fuels ... on Colstrip, when we had those fires in Rosebud County a few years ago, that one fire season admitted the same amount of particulate as running Colstrip for 3,000 years.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [5/6/15](#)]

### **Voted for Speaker & Majority Leader Appointing Members Reviewing Energy Dept. Carbon Capture Research Program**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that would allow the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate to appoint members to the STEM Education Advisory Panel and a second advisory committee that would oversee the Energy Department’s carbon capture and sequestration research program. The amendment passed 234 to 183. [HR 1806, [H.Amdt. 248](#), [Vote #253](#), 5/20/15; CQ Floor Votes, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Voted to Prohibit EPA Regulations on Non-Public Research, Limiting EPA’s Ability to Combat Pollution & Climate Change**

In March 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that “prohibits EPA from proposing, finalizing or disseminating a rule or other ‘covered action’ unless all scientific and technical information used to decide upon the rule is made available to the public so the research can be independently analyzed and reproduced.” The bill passed 241 to 175. [HR 1030, [Vote #125](#), 3/18/15; CQ House Action Reports, [3/13/15](#)]

### **Would Limit EPA’s Ability To Write Regulations To Combat Pollution And Climate Change**

“Critics say the bill would severely handicap the EPA’s ability to write regulations necessary to fight pollution and climate change and protect the environment and human health, and would require the EPA to violate patient confidentiality. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has criticized the accusation from the GOP, saying transparency and sound science are among the agency’s priorities.” [The Hill, [2/27/15](#)]

### **Called to End War on Fossil Fuels**

In February 2014, Zinke said, we need to “stop the war on fossil fuels.” Zinke said, “We also need to work on becoming energy independent, stopping the war on fossil fuels and investing in our infrastructure. Imagine the geopolitical implications of not being held hostage to foreign oil? We can’t power this nation and bring back manufacturing on pixy dust and hope.” [Hungry Horse News, 2/10/14]

### **Inconsistent: Previously Called to Get Off Oil**

In March 2012, while campaigning in Bigfork, Zinke said “we’re ultimately going to have to get off oil.” Zinke said, “We’re ultimately going to have to get off oil, but want to do it on our own terms. It’s going to be a very unpopular first two years. People will be nervous about rapid changes.” [Bigfork Eagle, 3/14/12]

### **Inconsistent Again: Wanted to Move Forward from Alternative Fuels**

In May 2014, during an interview on NBC Montana, Zinke said that he was “not against alternative fuels, but we need to move forward.” Zinke said, “Certainly I’m not against alternative fuels, but we need to move

forward. And certainly it is better to produce it in North America than it is to be held hostage overseas. And energy will bring back manufacturing. I think the gas play's enormous in this country." [NBC Montana, [5/09/14](#)]

### **Zinke Alleged that Obama Blamed Hurricane Sandy on Climate Change**

In January 2014, while speaking on the SOFREP Internet Radio Program, Zinke alleged that President Obama had said that Hurricane Sandy was a result of carbon dioxide. Zinke said, "And, you have these forces that are against us, that are not made up of science. And when the President of the United States, in his state of the union says, that definitively, that Sandy is the result of carbon dioxide, there is no scientific evidence for that whatsoever. That's a lie. Just like Benghazi was a lie." [YouTube, [1/27/14](#)]

### **Voted to Urge Congress to Stop EPA from Regulating Greenhouse Gases**

In February 2011, Zinke voted in favor of a Senate Joint Resolution urging the U.S. Congress to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases with existing law. The resolution passed (30-20). [[SJR 10](#), [2/19/11](#)]

### **...BUT Zinke Wrote 2010 Letter to Obama Calling to Address Climate Change**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, "Kathy Weber, the Lewis campaign's communications director: 'Sen. Zinke wrote a letter to President Obama urging him to address climate change in 2010 and today he suddenly believes humans have nothing to do with climate change.'" [Great Falls Tribune, 10/15/14]

### **Voted to Indefinitely Postpone Bill that Would Evaluate Climate Change**

On March 30, 2009, Zinke voted to indefinitely postpone a bill that would create a bipartisan committee to evaluate climate change. The bill was indefinitely postponed (28-21). [[HB 375](#), [3/30/09](#)]

### **Voted Against Extending the Tax Deduction for the Purchase of Recycled Materials**

In March 2009, voted against a bill, which would have repealed the end date for the tax credit for investment in property used to collect or process reclaimable materials as well repealed the termination date for the tax deduction for the purchase of recycled materials. The bill passed (44-6). [[HB 21](#), [3/23/09](#)]

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

### **Zinke Voted to Modify the Environmental Review Process for Federally-Funded Projects & Permits for Private Projects**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for: "Passage of a bill that would modify the environmental review process for federally-funded projects and for federal permits for private projects by setting deadlines on agency reviews, and by limiting the grounds for civil actions against an environmental review or permit approval. The lead agency - which would need to set a review schedule and oversee the preparation of a single environmental review document that would satisfy National Environmental Policy Act review requirements - would have two years to complete the review, with the option to extend the review period by one year. When multiple agencies have jurisdiction over a project, the agencies would need to conduct their portions of the NEPA review concurrently, instead of sequentially. As amended, the bill would also prohibit federal agencies from considering the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of climate change in NEPA reviews." The bill passed by a vote of 233-170. [CQ, [9/25/15](#); H.R. 348, Vote 518, [9/25/15](#)]

### **The RAPID Act Was Opposed By The Obama Administration**

"The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 348, which would undercut responsible decisionmaking and public involvement in the Federal environmental review and permitting processes. As the Administration said when virtually identical legislation was considered previously, H.R. 348 would increase litigation, regulatory delays, and potentially force agencies to approve a project if the review and analysis cannot be completed before the proposed arbitrary deadlines. This legislation would complicate the regulatory process and create two sets of

standards for Federal agencies to follow to review projects – one for “construction projects” and one for all other Federal actions, such as rulemakings or management plans.” [Office of Management and Budget, Statement of Administration Policy, [9/16/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Preventing The Weakening Of Any Provisions That Preserve Safe Drinking Water, Private Property Rights, And the Health, Safety, And Sovereignty Of Native American Tribes**

In September 2015 Zinke voted against a motion that would ensure provisions that safeguard drinking water, private property rights, and Native American sovereignty rights would not be weakened by the RAPID Act. The motion failed 175 to 229. [HR 348, [Vote #517](#), 9/25/15; Motion to Recommit, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Environmental Review Alternatives to Identify Effects on Low-Income & Communities of Color**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment that would require alternatives to identify potential effects on low-income communities and communities of color.” The amendment passed by 320-88. [CQ, [9/25/15](#), H.Amdt.700 to H.R. 348, Vote 509, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Environmental Review Alternatives to Address Flooding, Wildfire, And Climate Change Risks**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Lowenthal, D-Calif., amendment that would require alternatives to address flooding, wildfire, and climate change risks.” The amendment was rejected by 170-228. [CQ, [9/25/15](#), H.Amdt.699 to H.R. 348, Vote 508, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Including Low-Income & Minority Impact in Environmental Impact Statements for New Construction**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to include potential impacts on low-income and minority communities in environmental impact statements for new construction projects. “The House has passed an amendment sponsored by Rep. Raul M. Grijalva, D-Ariz., to the RAPID Act (H.R. 348). The amendment would require regulators to include impacts on low-income and minority communities in their assessments of environmental impact statements for construction projects. Grijalva said the requirement would seek to fulfill ‘the promise of environmental justice for all communities.’” The amendment passed 320 to 88. [HR 348, [Vote #509](#), 9/25/15; On Agreeing to the Amendment, [9/25/15](#); Albany Herald, [10/04/15](#)]

### **Streamlined Environmental Review Processes For Infrastructure Projects**

“The House passed legislation on Friday to streamline the environmental review process for infrastructure projects. The bill passed largely along party lines by a vote of 233-170, with seven mostly centrist Democrats joining all Republicans in support. Under the measure, federal agencies would only have to use one environmental impact statement and one environmental assessment as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.” [The Hill, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Grant an Environmental Review Extension In The RAPID Act if Requested**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Gallego, D-Ariz., amendment that would grant an extension if one is requested by a state or local elected official or a local tribal official.” The amendment was rejected by a 179-230 vote. [CQ, [9/25/15](#); H.Amdt.701 to H.R. 348, Vote 510, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Rejected Inclusion Of Social Cost Of Carbon And Required Environmental Impact Studies To Be Completed Within Two Years**

“The House passed a bill (HR 348) to scale back the National Environmental Policy Act as a regulator of large construction projects in the United States. The bill disavows the social cost of carbon emissions; sets a two-year deadline for completing environmental reviews; requires lawsuits challenging reviews to be filed within 180 days; limits the number of reviews per project; authorizes states to prepare alternative environmental

assessments; and allows agencies to accept secondary rather than original analyses of environmental effects.” [Washington Post, 10/01/15]

### **Zinke Voted Against Removing Provision to Automatically Approve any Project if the Reviewing Agency Does Not Make a Decision Within the Bill’s Deadlines**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment that would remove the bill’s provision that would automatically approve any project for which the reviewing agency does not make a decision within the bill’s deadlines.” The amendment was rejected by a 173-237 vote. [CQ, [9/25/15](#); H.Amdt.702 to H.R. 348, Vote 511, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Excluding Projects Limiting Access to Hunting or Fishing, Affect Endangered Species or Automatically Approved By Lack Of Agency Decision**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment “that would exclude projects that would limit access to or opportunities for hunting or fishing, or that would affect an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act from the bill’s provision that would automatically approve projects if the agency has not made a decision within the bill’s deadlines.” The bill stipulated a deadline of between 90 and 120 days. The amendment failed, 187 to 223. [HR 348, [Amendment #6](#), [Vote #512](#), 9/25/15; CQ, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Allowing Agencies To Use The Social Cost Of Carbon In An Environmental Review Or Environmental Decision-Making Process**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Peters, D-Calif., amendment that would allow agencies to use the social cost of carbon in an environmental review or environmental decision-making process.” Amendment was rejected 179-229. [CQ, [9/25/15](#); H.Amdt.704 to H.R. 348, Vote 513, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Prohibit Considering the Effects of Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Climate Change In National Environmental Policy Act Reviews**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Gosar, R-Ariz., amendment that would prohibit federal agencies from considering the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of climate change in National Environmental Policy Act reviews.” Amendment was adopted 223-186. [CQ, [9/25/15](#); H.Amdt.705 to H.R. 348, Vote 514, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Barring Provisions from Affecting a Potential Target for a Terrorist Attack**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment that would bar the bill’s provisions from affecting permitting projects that could be a potential target for a terrorist attack or that involve chemical facilities and other critical infrastructure.” Amendment was rejected 176-232. [CQ, [9/25/15](#); H.Amdt.706 to H.R. 348, Vote 515, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Limit Agencies From Allowing Public Comment Or Participation In The Decision-Making Process For Federally Funded Infrastructure Projects**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Johnson, D-Ga., amendment that would state that nothing the bill would limit agencies from allowing public comment or participation in the decision-making process.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 176-232. [CQ, [9/25/15](#); H.Amdt.707 to H.R. 348, Vote 516, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Exempting Projects That Affect Safe Drinking Water & Air Quality Of Nearby Communities**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Kuster, D-N.H., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back to the House immediately with an amendment that would exempt projects that affect safe drinking water and air quality of nearby communities, infringe on property rights, or affect tribal sovereignty, and would require environmental documents to assess whether projects use materials

manufactured in the United States and whether they would result in hiring certain unemployed workers.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 175-229. [CQ, [9/25/15](#); H.R. 348, Vote 517, [9/25/15](#)]

## EPA

### **Zinke: “According To A New [GAO] Report, The EPA Broke The Law By Launching ‘Covert Propaganda’ Campaigns In Order To Push Its Anti-Montana Agenda.”**

In December 2015, Zinke posted on Facebook: “According to a new Government Accountability Office report, the EPA broke the law by launching ‘covert propaganda’ campaigns in order to push its anti-Montana agenda. I’ve always fought hard against the EPA’s overreach into Montanans’ lives and businesses, and this is further evidence that Congress must not abandon accountability and oversight efforts. The EPA has consistently extended their authority under this president, and they must be put in check.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [12/15/15](#)]

### **Voted to Consider EPA’s Rules on New Power Plants Have No Force or Effect & Revise National Energy Efficiency Standards**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 539) would provide for House floor consideration of S J Res 23, the bill that would provide that the Environmental Protection Agency’s rules on new power plants have no force or effect, S J Res 24, the bill that would provide that the Environmental Protection Agency’s rules on existing power plants have no force or effect, and HR 8, the bill that would revise national energy efficiency standards, require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to designate at least 10 corridors across federal lands in the Eastern U.S. where pipelines could be built, and require the Department of Energy to expedite decisions on applications to export liquefied natural gas.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 243-181. [CQ, [12/1/15](#); H. Res. 539, Vote 647, [12/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to End Debate on EPA’s Rules on New Power Plants Have No Force Or Effect & a Bill That Would Revise National Energy Efficiency Standards**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Nunes, R-Calif., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 539) that would provide for House floor consideration of S J Res 23, the bill that would provide that the Environmental Protection Agency’s rules on new power plants have no force or effect, S J Res 24, the bill that would provide that the Environmental Protection Agency’s rules on existing power plants have no force or effect, and HR 8, the bill that would revise national energy efficiency standards, require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to designate at least 10 corridors across federal lands in the Eastern U.S. where pipelines could be built, and require the Department of Energy to expedite decisions on applications to export liquefied natural gas.” The motion agreed to by a vote of 242-179. [CQ, [12/1/15](#); H. Res. 539, Vote 646, [12/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Did Not Vote to Modify EPA Evaluation Procedure for Chemicals**

In June 2015, Zinke was not present for a vote on the: “Shimkus, R-Ill., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would modify the process under which chemicals are evaluated by allowing manufacturers to designate a chemical for evaluation, as long as they pay for Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) work. The bill would also prohibit EPA from restricting a chemical before evaluating its risk of injury to human health or the environment and creates a dedicated revolving fund in the Treasury for EPA evaluations using manufacturer-paid evaluation fees.” The motion passed by 398-1. [CQ, [6/23/15](#), H.R. 2576, Vote 378, [6/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported The House Plan To Cut EPA’s Budget By 9% to “Help Rein In The EPA’s ‘Regulatory Spree.’”**

In June 2015, Zinke said: “In Montana, we know the harmful impacts of the EPA more than most: Waters of the U.S., anti-coal regulations, and bans on some wood burning stoves. This week, the House will consider a budget cutting plan that isn’t just about making every taxpayer dollar count – it’s about holding the Obama

administration accountable. To help rein in the EPA's 'regulatory spree,' this year's House plan cuts the EPA's budget by nine percent and includes several provisions to protect American jobs and energy." [Congressman Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [6/23/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted for EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act**

On March 17, 2017, Zinke voted for passage of a bill that would modify the qualifications and selection process for individuals to serve on EPA's Science Advisory Board. The bill would require that there is a balance of scientific views on the board and it would expand the disclosure requirements for members of the board. It also requires the board and its subcommittees to publicly release scientific information used in determining its advisories to EPA. The bill Passed by a vote of 236-181. [CQ, Accessed [3/17/15](#); H.R. 1029, Vote 121, [3/17/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Ban Board Members If They Received Grants/Contracts from the EPA & Disqualify Them for 3 Years After Service**

On March 17, 2015, Zinke voted for the McKinley, R-W.Va., amendment that would ban board members from serving on the Science Advisory Board if he or she has received grants or contracts from the EPA. The amendment would also prohibit board members from receiving grants or contracts from EPA for three years after their service on the board. The motion was adopted by a vote of 242-175. [CQ, Accessed [3/17/15](#); H.R. 1029, Vote 119, [3/17/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting Board Members That Were CEOs of or Received Primary Research Funding From Corporations Convicted Of Environmental Crimes**

On March 17, 2015, Zinke voted against the Peters, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Science, Space and Technology Committee with instructions that would prohibit board members who are CEOs or individuals whose primary source of research funds are associated with corporations convicted of major environmental crimes. The Motion rejected by a vote of 179-237. [CQ, Accessed [3/17/15](#); H.R. 1029, Vote 120, [3/17/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against An Amendment to Authorize \$250M in Funding For The EPA Through 2019**

On March 18, 2015 Zinke vote against the Edwards, D-Md., amendment that would authorize \$250 million for the EPA to carry out the bill through fiscal 2019. The amendment failed by a vote of 164-254. [CQ, [3/18/15](#); H.R. 1030, Vote 122, [3/18/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against An Amendment That Would Allow The EPA To Consider Peer-Reviewed Scientific Publications Based On Data Disclosed To The Public**

On March 18, 2015, Zinke voted against the Kennedy, D-Mass., amendment that would allow the EPA to consider any peer-reviewed scientific publication including those based on data otherwise prohibited from public disclosure. The amendment failed by a vote of 184-231. [CQ, [3/18/15](#); H.R. 1030, Vote 123, [3/18/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Banning Scientific Advice from Individuals Who Received Primary Research Funding From Corporations Convicted Of Environmental Crimes**

On March 18, 2015, Zinke voted against the Takai, D-Hawaii, motion to recommit the bill to the House Science, Space and Technology Committee with instructions that would ban the EPA from seeking scientific advice from individuals whose primary source of funding is from corporations or individuals convicted of major environmental crimes. The motion was rejected by a vote of 181-239. [CQ, [3/18/15](#); H.R. 1030, Vote 124, [3/18/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted for the Secret Science Reform Act**

On March 18, 2015, Zinke voted for a bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible. [CQ, [3/18/15](#); H.R. 1030, Vote 125, [3/18/15](#)]

### **Said He Was “Proud” to Oppose Obama’s Clean Power Plan**

“Montana’s two Republican members of Congress are hailing the passage of bills blocking the Obama administration’s clean power plan – but the bills face an almost certain veto. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont, also said he is ‘proud to lead the fight against these onerous Washington regulations,’ along with Daines and Montana Attorney General Tim Fox, also a Republican. The clean-power plan creates new standards to limit carbon emissions from power plants. Zinke voted Tuesday for the measures blocking the plan. They passed the House on largely partisan votes, with Republicans in favor.” [MTN News, [12/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said POTUS “Clean Power Plan” Would Cause Montana’s Economy To “Decline By Almost One Billion Dollars By 2025.”**

“As President Barack Obama worked to hammer out a global climate agreement in Paris, Republicans in Congress moved to block his plan to force steep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions from U.S. power plants. The House passed two resolutions Tuesday disapproving Obama’s power-plant rules and rendering them inoperative. A measure blocking an Environmental Protection Agency rule for existing power plants was approved 242-180, while a measure blocking a rule on future power plants was approved 235-188. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., voted for both resolutions. ‘I believe Montana knows how to best manage our power and our resources, much better than unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. do,’ Zinke said in a news release. ‘Our state has already reduced our emissions rates without the federal government getting involved. The plan will kill good-paying union jobs and drive up costs for Montana families and small businesses.’ Zinke continued: ‘If our governor decides to comply with this supposed ‘clean’ power plan, Montanans will suffer. All of Colstrip will have to close, essentially closing the entire town. Over seven thousand jobs will be lost. Energy costs for consumers will skyrocket. Personal income will be devastated. And, even more concerning, our state’s economic activity will decline by almost one billion dollars by 2025.’ [Associated Press, [12/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke On EPA Clean Power Plan: “What Your Doing Is Destroying The Very Power That Is Going To Make America Competitive.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, stopped by the Busch Agricultural Resource center just north of Sidney Tuesday for a tour of the facility and to talk with local workers about the issues important to them. [...] He also took the opportunity to discuss problems with the Obama Administration’s anti-energy policies which he said are not in the interest of Montana. Specifically the EPA’s Clean Power Plan seemed to trouble the congressman. ‘What your doing is destroying the very power that is going to make America competitive,’ Zinke said. ‘Unless we have an economy, based on reliable, efficient, affordable, abundant energy, the rest doesn’t matter. If we keep our energy costs low then we can manufacture and our economy will prosper. The president can’t pretend we don’t have more energy than anyone else. I wish it would come out of the ground a little faster, but it’s not going anywhere.’ [Sidney Herald, [10/17/15](#)]

### **MTN News: “Zinke Said The Rules Are Bad For Montana’s Economy And The Coal Industry.”**

“Montana’s two Republican members of Congress are hailing the passage of bills blocking the Obama administration’s clean power plan – but the bills face an almost certain veto. [...] Both Daines and Zinke said the rules are bad for Montana’s economy and the coal industry. ‘We need to invest in our clean coal resources, rather than perpetually punish them,’ Zinke said. ‘I believe Montana knows how to best manage our power and our resources, much better than unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., do.’ [MTN News, [12/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Disapprove of EPA Emissions Rule That Set Emission Limits for New Fossil-Fuel Electrical Power Plants**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the resolution that would disapprove of the Environmental Protection Agency emissions rule for new power plants issued on Oct. 23, 2015. The resolution provides that the rule will have no force or effect. The EPA rule sets specific emission limits for new fossil-fuel electrical power plants, limiting large new natural-gas-fired turbines to 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-

hour and smaller turbines to 1,100 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour, with the option of averaging emissions over multiple years to allow for operational flexibility.” The resolution was adopted by a vote of 235-188. [CQ, [12/1/15](#); S.J. Res 23, Vote 651, [12/1/15](#)]

***The Hill: “Rule Would Require Technology On Coal Plants To Significant Curtail Carbon Output, Which The Industry Says Would All But Prevent New Plants.”***

“The House voted Tuesday to overturn President Obama’s sweeping climate change regulations for power plants in a largely symbolic move. [...] Lawmakers also voted 235-188 to block a parallel EPA regulation setting limits on carbon emissions from newly built power plants that use coal or natural gas. That rule would require technology on coal plants to significant curtail carbon output, which the industry says would all but prevent new plants. Both votes are a piece of the GOP’s attempts to undermine the Paris climate talks by showing that his emissions cuts do not enjoy support at home from Congress or the American public.” [The Hill, [12/1/15](#)]

***Votes Were Meant To Undermine Obama At The Paris Climate Change Talks***

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***Zinke Voted to Disapprove of EPA Emissions Rule For Existing Power Plants***

In December 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the resolution that would disapprove of the Environmental Protection Agency emissions rule for existing power plants issued on Oct. 23, 2015. The resolution provides that the rule will have no force or effect. The EPA rule sets different emissions targets for 49 states based on their existing energy profile and requires each state to reduce emissions by a certain amount by 2030. Under the rule, states are required to submit proposed plans on how to reduce emissions to the EPA by June 2016, with the agency evaluating whether the plans reduce emissions and are enforceable.” The resolution was adopted by a vote of 242-180. [CQ, [12/1/15](#); S.J. Res. 24, Vote 650, [12/1/15](#)]

***The Hill: EPA “Put The Rule Forth In August, Mandating A 32% Cut In The Power Sector’s Carbon Dioxide Emissions By 2030”***

“The House voted Tuesday to overturn President Obama’s sweeping climate change regulations for power plants in a largely symbolic move. The mostly party-line 242-180 vote came on the second day of a two-week climate change conference in Paris. The legislation would permanently block the main pillar of Obama’s climate agenda and of his pledge to the international community for the accord world leaders are writing in Paris. Tuesday’s vote sends the measure to Obama’s desk, following the Senate’s November vote to pass the legislation. Obama has promised a veto to protect his climate priorities. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) put the rule forth in August, mandating a 32 percent cut in the power sector’s carbon dioxide emissions by 2030, the first limits on greenhouse gases for power plants. It’s expected to significantly hurt the coal industry, though the EPA says it will save consumers money on their electricity bills. The measure was passed as a resolution under the Congressional Review Act, which allows for a streamlined process for Congress to overturn major regulations.” [The Hill, [12/1/15](#)]

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***The Hill: "[The Bill Was] Expected To Significantly Hurt The Coal Industry, Though The EPA Says It Will Save Consumers Money On Their Electricity Bills."***

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***KULR: Headline: "American Lung Association Defends The Clean Power Plan, Zinke Opposes."***

[KULR, [10/23/15](#)]

***Zinke Supported Attorney General Tim Fox's Lawsuit Against The Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan***

"Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voiced his support for Attorney General Tim Fox's lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over their new job-killing carbon regulations known as the 'Clean Power Plan.' Earlier this year, Rep. Zinke took to the House floor to blast the rule. Watch the video here. The new EPA regulations would increase Montana's average utility costs across the board. Electricity costs would increase by 21% and an annual gas bill by 41%, or almost \$500 per household by 2020 in Montana alone. Industrial customers will face up to \$2,400 a year in additional costs. This is the most restrictive climate change plan in American history. Zinke cosponsored and voted for H.R.2042, the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015, which would extend the compliance deadline and protect states' rights to exempt themselves from federal plans. This bill passed out of the House on June 24, 2015. 'Attorney General Tim Fox has proven time and time again he is committed to standing up for Montana; this time he is fighting for Montana families and businesses by taking on the EPA and their misguided carbon regulations,' said Rep. Ryan Zinke. 'I have all the confidence in the world in Fox after he successfully led efforts to halt both the EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule and the President's executive amnesty. I was just in Colstrip last week where this regulation threatens not only the

power plant but the livelihoods of the people who live there. If the EPA plan is enacted, their jobs are dead.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said If EPA’s Clean Power Plan Was Enacted, Colstrip Jobs Would Be “Dead.”**

Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voiced his support for Attorney General Tim Fox’s lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over their new job-killing carbon regulations known as the ‘Clean Power Plan.’ Earlier this year, Rep. Zinke took to the House floor to blast the rule. Watch the video here. The new EPA regulations would increase Montana’s average utility costs across the board. Electricity costs would increase by 21% and an annual gas bill by 41%, or almost \$500 per household by 2020 in Montana alone. Industrial customers will face up to \$2,400 a year in additional costs. This is the most restrictive climate change plan in American history. Zinke cosponsored and voted for H.R.2042, the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015, which would extend the compliance deadline and protect states’ rights to exempt themselves from federal plans. This bill passed out of the House on June 24, 2015. ‘Attorney General Tim Fox has proven time and time again he is committed to standing up for Montana; this time he is fighting for Montana families and businesses by taking on the EPA and their misguided carbon regulations,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘I have all the confidence in the world in Fox after he successfully led efforts to halt both the EPA’s Waters of the U.S. rule and the President’s executive amnesty. I was just in Colstrip last week where this regulation threatens not only the power plant but the livelihoods of the people who live there. If the EPA plan is enacted, their jobs are dead.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “[Montana] Already Reduced Our Emissions Rates Without The Federal Government Getting Involved.”**

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### **Zinke: “EPA’s Supposed ‘Clean Power Plan’ [Would] Kill Good-Paying Union Jobs And Drive Up Costs For Montana Families And Small Businesses.”**

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### **Zinke: “Coal Remains Montana’s, And Our Nation’s, Largest Source Of Electricity Because It Is Affordable And Readily Available.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voiced his support for Attorney General Tim Fox’s lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over their new job-killing carbon regulations known as the ‘Clean Power Plan. [...] ‘Look at the facts: the national labor participation rate is the lowest it has been in the past 30 years. Wages are stagnant, the cost of living is going up, and energy prices for home heating and manufacturing are skyrocketing because of layers and layers of regulations. Our communities cannot afford another federal assault on the economy. Coal remains Montana’s, and our nation’s, largest source of electricity because it is affordable and readily available. Whether the coal is mined in Montana or turned into electricity to build cars in

Michigan, coal is an important part of the American economy.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/26/15](#)]

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**Missoulian: Zinke Feared It Would Drastically Increase Electricity Costs During A Time When Energy Prices And Taxes Are High Enough.”**

“The Clean Power Plan is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposal to reduce carbon emissions from power plants in the United States. It is this country’s most concerted and significant effort to limit carbon pollution – and the many public health costs linked to it. Yet many Republicans in Congress are determined to oppose this much-needed and overdue effort, including Montana’s U.S. Sen. Steve Daines and U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke. Zinke, a member of the House Natural Resources Committee, has expressed concern that the rule will ‘drastically increase electricity costs during a time when energy prices and taxes are high enough’ and ‘impose costly regulations that will negatively impact thousands of industry jobs across the state.” [Missoulian, Editorial, [8/2/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Montana Could Lead The Nation In Coal Production, But Unfortunately President Obama And His EPA Are Waging A More Aggressive War On Coal Than They Are Against ISIS.”**

“Downtown Missoula will host a rally Thursday night in support of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan, which is expected to be released in early August. [...] Congressman Ryan Zinke (R-MT) has voiced his concerns the EPA is attacking Montana’s coal industry. ‘Montana could lead the nation in coal production, but unfortunately President Obama and his EPA are waging a more aggressive war on coal than they are against ISIS.” [KTMF, [7/30/15](#)]

**Zinke Cited A Report Commissioned By Peabody, The Country’s Largest Coal Mining Company, On The Administrations Clean Power Plan**

“News reports are saying that President Obama’s Clean Power Plan has set new targets for Montana that are twice as large as those floated last year in a draft of the plan. But the head of Montana’s Department of Environmental Quality, Tom Livers, says it’s still unclear to him what exactly the new thresholds are. [...] On Monday, Representative Ryan Zinke issued a press release citing a report that says Montana households will face almost \$500 a year in higher energy costs under the plan. The report Zinke cited was commissioned by Peabody, the country’s largest coal mining company, and a disclaimer in the report says those who wrote it don’t vouch for its method or fitness for a particular purpose.” [Montana Public Radio, [8/4/15](#)]

**Zinke: “The EPA’s Supposed ‘Clean Power Plan’ Will Kill Good-Paying Union Jobs And Drive Up Costs For Montana Families...”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke blasted the EPA for their new Washington knows best emissions standards known as the ‘Clean Power Plan.’ [...] ‘I believe Montana knows best how to manage our power and our resources, much better than unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C, do. In Montana, we value our beautiful lands and clean air and water, and we all work together to conserve our resources. Our state has already reduced our emissions rates without the federal government getting involved. The EPA’s supposed

‘Clean Power Plan’ will kill good-paying union jobs and drive up costs for Montana families and small businesses. I’ve been to the Rosebud mine in Colstrip where International Union of Operating Engineers Local 400 earn their paychecks to provide for their families.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [8/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “[Montana] Has Already Reduced Our Emissions Rates Without The Federal Government Getting Involved.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke blasted the EPA for their new Washington knows best emissions standards known as the ‘Clean Power Plan.’ [...] ‘I believe Montana knows best how to manage our power and our resources, much better than unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C, do. In Montana, we value our beautiful lands and clean air and water, and we all work together to conserve our resources. Our state has already reduced our emissions rates without the federal government getting involved. The EPA’s supposed ‘Clean Power Plan’ will kill good-paying union jobs and drive up costs for Montana families and small businesses. I’ve been to the Rosebud mine in Colstrip where International Union of Operating Engineers Local 400 earn their paychecks to provide for their families.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [8/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Coal Was “Affordable,” “Readily Available” And An “Important Part Of The American Economy.”**

Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke blasted the EPA for their new Washington knows best emissions standards known as the ‘Clean Power Plan.’ [...] ‘Look at the facts: the national labor participation rate is the lowest it has been in the past 30 years. Wages are stagnant, the cost of living is going up, and energy prices for home heating and manufacturing are skyrocketing because of layers and layers of regulations. Our communities cannot afford another federal assault on the economy. Coal remains Montana’s and our nation’s largest source of electricity because it is affordable and readily available. Whether the coal is mined in Montana or turned into electricity to build cars in Michigan, coal is an important part of the American economy. ‘I’ve heard from folks across Montana, their message is clear: Stop the madness. As the EPA recklessly moves forward with their Pricey Power Plan, I will do everything in my power to stop this bad plan and stand together with my colleagues to support American jobs.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [8/3/15](#)]

## **FRACKING**

### **Zinke Claimed “Fracking & Horizontal Drilling Are Absolute Game Changers” for the Energy Sector In Eastern Montana**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, is pleased that HR 702, a bill to lift the crude oil export ban, passed the House 261-159 Friday. Zinke is a co-sponsor of the legislation. The freshman representative said the bill would create more than 2,400 jobs in Montana. ‘It’s time to utilize our energy resources in a responsible way,’ Zinke said during a press conference call last week. Zinke said most of the jobs will be located in the ‘energy sector on the east side’ of the state. ‘Fracking and horizontal drilling are absolute game changers,’ Zinke said.” [Sidney Herald, [10/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Legislation That Would Ban Fracking On Public Land, Said The Legislation Was “Going No Where.”**

“President Obama recently announced new regulations for hydraulic fracturing—otherwise known as fracking. They require companies to disclose what’s actually in the chemicals they use among other standards. But one congressman says those regulation don’t go far enough—he wants to ban fracking on all public land. Some say it’s a controversial way to get oil and gas—fracking—a process to inject high-pressure water and chemicals into rocks to release the gas inside. Congressman Mark Pocan of Wisconsin says this process of getting energy is not safe. [...] Also piling on against this bill is Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke, ‘It’s going no where.’ [KTVH, [5/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Highlighted EPA's Announcement That Fracking Was "Safe And Not A Threat To Clean And Safe Water."**

"Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke issued the following statement after the EPA released an assessment declaring fracking poses no widespread threat to safe and clean drinking water: 'After denying the scientific facts in order to push the Obama Administration's anti-energy agenda, the EPA announced what independent scientists have been saying for years: Fracking is safe and not a threat to clean and safe water. The only question that remains is why did it take so long?'" [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said "There Hasn't Been An Accident In Fracking Once" And Added That "There's All Sorts Of Things That Need To Have Rules And Regulations To Make Sure There's Not An Accident."**

(31:12) ZINKE: "Well, here is part of the problem. Is you have people in DC making decisions that affect Montana and the west, and they don't even know where Montana is on the map. And I think it's a fair statement to say if you don't know the difference between Butte, Bozeman and Missoula maybe you're not the right person to make these decisions. The fracking rules are better addressed at the state level because that's where the expertise is. And the geology in Montana is totally different than the geology in Oklahoma. There hasn't been an accident in fracking once. Now, there could be if you don't do a geological survey, if you don't put a casing in, if you go over a fault line. There's all sorts of things that need to have rules and regulations to make sure there's not an accident. But, for the Department of Interior to come out with a new set of rules that cost about 100,000 dollars additional per well head, that doesn't do anything other than cost more longer process, new permitting process, I say it's inappropriate." [YouTube, Sarah Yovetich, [4/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Administration's Fracking Standards For Well Construction and Waste Water Disposal On Federal Lands, Said Affordable Energy For Montanans "Not A Priority" For Administration**

"The Obama administration announced Friday new rules on hydraulic fracking, the contentious process behind the U.S. natural gas boom. The rules, issued by the Interior Department, include new standards for the construction of wells and the disposal of waste water in fracking conducted on federal land. Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke issued a statement Friday afternoon blasting the rule. 'Once again, the Obama Administration has made it clear that an all-of-the-above energy approach that provides affordable energy to Montanans is not a priority,' said Zinke." [KBZK, [3/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "Just Another Example Of Government Bureaucracy Stifling Montana's Ability To Make Tremendous Economic Strides On Our Federal Lands."**

Zinke said, "This latest rule on hydraulic fracturing is just another example of government bureaucracy stifling Montana's ability to make tremendous economic strides on our federal lands. States already have technical structures in place to effectively regulate the industry. Our nation has the incredible opportunity to use our vast resources to create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, yet this decision is yet another barrier for everyone, from the producers to local residents." [KBZK, [3/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Administration's Fracking Regulations; Claimed Regulations Were "One-Size-Fits-All" And Made Fracking More Expensive, "About \$100,000 A Well Or So."**

(00:30) In a Fox News interview, Zinke said, "You have to ask why are they in place? Are they gonna make it better? And the answer is No. It is just one size fits all. You know in states like Montana Wyoming the expertise lies in state government and not the federal government. And so this these one-size-fits-all, you have to ask why? What's the purpose the regulation? Does it make it better? In this case it does not, it makes it more expensive, about a hundred thousand dollars a well or so." [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [3/21/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke: "There Isn't One Documented Case Of A Mix Between A Frack And An Aquifer."**

(01:26) Zinke said, "Technology has changed since then, we have cell phones. And you look at what's happening now, there isn't one documented case of a mix between a frack and an aquifer, it could happen you need some regulation but you need the expertise." [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [3/21/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Criticized Obama, Said Fracking And Sage Grouse Regulations Should Be Up To State Experts; Claimed He Was A “Teddy Roosevelt Conservationist.”**

(02:02) Zinke said, “It is a disturbing trend because if you can’t tell the difference between Butte and Bozeman maybe you shouldn’t be orchestrating laws that affect Butte and Bozeman. If you don’t have the expertise to look at fracking or never been a Montanan to judge what is actually reducing the population of the sage grouse, and what. You know I’m a Teddy Roosevelt Conservationist, we all like clean air, clean water but the expertise is oftentimes on the ground and it’s not from Washington. The view from the Potomac is a lot difference than the view from Yellowstone. [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [3/21/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Said BLM And DOI Had “No Real Expertise In Fracking.”**

(02:51) Zinke said, “BLM has no expertise in fracking, The DOI has no real expertise in fracking, and so I think you need to push the decisions down where you know the issue, where the experts are on the ground, we need more scientists and less lawyers on the ground, that would be a big help!” [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [3/21/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Said He Supported Export Of Natural Gas To Europe To “Put Pressure On The Soviet Union (Or Russia),” Supported Export Of Sweet Crude And Encouraged Energy Independence By Fracking Shale Plays**

(3:31) Zinke said, “Imagine a world where we could export liquid natural gas to Europe to put pressure on the Soviet Union or Russia, in which case would like to be the soviet and again. Imagine being able to relieve the burden on export of sweet crude, and be energy independent. The Persian Gulf would look a lot different and we have a lot more options to play if we were energy independent. And we have everything in our favor we have a shale play that is enormous and we have multiple shale plays near ports. And this administration is going after our ability to produce energy.” [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [3/21/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Said When It Comes To Fracking “There Seems To Be A Greater Amount Of Expertise In The States,” Asked BLM “Who Within The BLM Staff Has Relevant, Current Experience In Fracking?”**

“Committee on Natural Resources Vice Chairman Cynthia Lummis (WY-At large) today questioned BLM Director Neil Kornze on how the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between BLM and the states will operate. Rep. Ryan Zinke (MT-At large) focused on the available science and expertise in the BLM: ‘There seems to be a greater amount of expertise in the states. I am concerned about the science of what we’re doing and who is in the best position to make sure that what we’re doing is right... Who within the BLM staff has relevant, current experience in fracking?’ [Committee on Natural Resources, Press Release, [3/26/15](#)]

**Zinke: “If you don’t have the modern expertise, are you asking for more people to do it? And why Are We Making A Solution To A Problem That Isn’t There?”**

“Zinke continued, “If you don’t have the modern expertise, are you asking for more people to do it” And why are we asking then for more people to do it when the states probably have the better expertise” Are we making a solution to a problem that isn’t there?” [Committee on Natural Resources, Press Release, [3/26/15](#)]

**Zinke Said There Had Not Been “One Documented Case Of Mix Between A Frack And An Aquifer.”**

ZINKE (33:44): “God has a sense of a humor. He gave us fracking. It has been demonized, but there is not one documented case of mix between a frack and an aquifer. And I am a former geologist and I challenge any group to document it because there isn’t one.” [YouTube, The ACU, [2/28/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Said There Was Pressure From “Radical Environmentalists,” Claimed There Was “Not One Case, In Over 60 Years” Of A Mix Between A Frack And Aquifer,” But “It Could Happen, That’s Why You Have Some Regulation.”**

[00:02:41] Zinke said, “Well there’s a lot of pressure I think from radical environmentalists. A lot of it is here, where you kind of look at the facts. The facts here is you can develop energy cleanly you can make sure it’s environmentally safe. A lot of it is misinformation about what’s happening with fracking. There hasn’t been

one case of a mix between a frack and an aquifer. Not one case, in over 60 years. It could happen, but that's why you have some regulation. It needs to be fair, it needs to, make sure it's based on science. And a lot of these trips, like this one it's important for Congress to take a look at the facts, and look at the industry, look at how they perform. But being energy independent as a nation, has been a goal since the Carter Administration. Fracking all of the above, our technology, is a game changer and we need to leverage that, but not to be held hostage by foreign countries in the middle east is an enormous step for our national security." [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [4/9/15](#); WWL, 4/9/15] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke: God "Gave Us Fracking, and That's a Good Thing"**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said that God "gave us fracking, and that's a good thing." Zinke said, "I'm an optimist, I think God has a sense of humor. He gave us fracking, and that's a good thing." [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Claimed that Fracking is Safe**

In January 2014, while speaking on the SOFREP Internet Radio Program, Zinke called himself a "conservationist" and then alleged that "fracking and our shale play... is huge and environmentally safe." Zinke said, "And if the United States were to become energy independent, which it is entirely possible within 5 years, building the infrastructure, aggressively looking at, at our fracking and our shale play, which is huge and environmentally safe. Looking at coal, and coal is as clean a burning as you could possibly get, other than CO2. You know and, I'm, I'm a conservationist, but when, when there's a volcano in the Philippines that erupts, and in one event produces more CO2 than humans have produced in 200 years, you know, is, is CO2 really the problem? I don't think so. You know, let's look at the facts more than political rhetoric." [YouTube, [1/27/14](#)]

## **SUPERFUND CLEAN UP**

### **Zinke Opposed Superfund Designation at Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Site**

In 2016, Zinke "toured the [960-acre Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site] property with media, echoing his opposition for Superfund designation and expressing optimism for the site's future. 'I think if the site can be cleaned up rapidly without Superfund, that's the correct path. The more bureaucracy that's involved, it only lengthens the process,' Zinke said. 'There's a downside of having a Superfund site. There is a stigmatization. Once you get in it's really difficult to get out.' Zinke said he favors the state Department of Environmental Quality taking the reins as the lead agency over-seeing the cleanup rather than the EPA." [AP, 2/27/16]

### **Zinke: "I'm Glad To See The EPA And CFAC [Columbia Falls Aluminum Company] Finalize An Agreement Which Will Hold Glencore Accountable And Responsible."**

In November 2015, Zinke posted on Facebook: "As a Flathead native and resident I have been against a superfund listing since day one, advocating instead for a locally-driven solution to clean up the site. I'm glad to see the EPA and CFAC finalize an agreement which will hold Glencore accountable and responsible. While superfund sites often get stuck in bureaucratic purgatory and fail to produce results, I'm optimistic this local solution will revitalize the area." [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [11/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "I Have Been Against A [Columbia Falls Aluminum Company] Superfund Listing Since Day One, Advocating Instead For A Locally-Driven Solution To Clean Up The Site."**

In November 2015, Zinke posted on Facebook: "As a Flathead native and resident I have been against a superfund listing since day one, advocating instead for a locally-driven solution to clean up the site. I'm glad to see the EPA and CFAC finalize an agreement which will hold Glencore accountable and responsible. While superfund sites often get stuck in bureaucratic purgatory and fail to produce results, I'm optimistic this local solution will revitalize the area." [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [11/30/15](#)]

### **BAUM OPINION: Zinke Said He Preferred Montana Department Of Environmental Quality To Spearhead The Clean-Up Of The Columbia Falls Aluminum Company**

In July 2015, Bill Baum Badrock Canyon resident wrote: “This is my third attempt at trying to inspire common ordinary citizens to quit being apathetic and take responsibility for your own lives by mobilizing and taking action. The Columbia Falls Aluminum Company pollution still lies in the ground and in the water table you drink from and bathe in... from Columbia Falls all the way downstream along the Flathead River to Flathead Lake... having a deep underground hydrological effect on thousands of personal, individual, unprotected wells along the way. In my opinion, this dangerous situation has become another ‘Libby.’ [...] I also met with U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, Republican, who admonished the federal EPA Superfund approach as he prefers to allow the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to spearhead the clean-up... claiming they would be more effective. His reasoning is that he doesn’t want to adversely affect local property values and cause a ‘black eye’ for attracting businesses to the Columbia Falls area if it has a Superfund label stigma. Human and wildlife health and longevity would have to become secondary to commerce. (It is the Republican way of doing business.)” [Kalispell Daily Inter Lake, Bill Baum Opinion, [7/7/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Superfund Listing For CFAC Site, Said It Would “Delay Much Needed Economic Development,” For The Area, Supported Allowing CFAC To “Complete Their Analysis” Before Listing The Site**

In a letter to Governor Bullock Zinke said, “Therefore, I respectfully oppose the site being placed on the National Priorities List. Being listed will significantly delay much needed economic development for the Columbia Falls area. Historically, NPL listings in Montana have not resulted in expeditious resolutions; instead, they have faced excessive delays and bureaucracy. Our state has 18 Superfund sites, yet not a single one has been removed in the life of the program. I believe we should revise the path forward. I urge you to support CFAC’s efforts to complete their analysis before allowing the EPA to place the site on the NPL.” [Hungry Horse News, [3/11/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said CFAC Had Taken “Initiative” And CFAC’s Plan Was “In Montana’s Best Interest,” In Response To The Proposed Listing Of CFAC As A Superfund Site**

“The Environmental Protection Agency plans to propose the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company smelter site for placement on the federal Superfund’s National Priorities List this March [...] Bullock also received a letter from Rep. Ryan Zinke, Montana’s lone congressman, expressing opposition to placing the CFAC site on the Superfund list. Zinke presented the same arguments as Beaudry and Driscoll, and he applauded Glencore’s plans for the smelter site. ‘CFAC has taken the initiative to make this revitalization a reality,’ Zinke said. ‘Their plan to expeditiously and effectively complete the Columbia Falls aluminum site investigation is in Montana’s best interests.’ [Hungry Horse News, [3/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Was Criticized By Columbia Falls Resident For Letter To The Governor Which Opposed Listing CFAC As Superfund Site, Resident Was “Appalled.”**

“The following letter was sent to Rep. Ryan Zinke by Columbia Falls resident Bill Dakin in response to Zinke’s letter to Gov. Steve Bullock opposing putting the Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. site on the federal Superfund’s National Priorities List. As a lifelong Columbia Falls resident and businessman, I am appalled at your letter opposing the listing of the Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. smelter site on the EPA Superfund National Priority List.” [Flathead News Group, Bill Dakin Open Letter, [3/23/15](#)]

### **Columbia Falls Resident Said He Didn’t Recall Zinke At Community Meetings Where Community Opposed CFAC Obstruction And Supported An Investigation And Remediation**

“You have no wisdom to impart to the people of this community in this. Your advice is off-mark. I cannot recall your attendance at any of the numerous Columbia Falls public meetings during your two-year campaign, which might account for your mistaken presumption. The people of this community have spoken with clarity — in person at meetings, by written comment, and through our elected city leaders. We have spoken almost unanimously that we want the site investigated and, if necessary, remediated, and that we are wearily fed up

with the obfuscation and deliberate, deceptive stalling of CFAC, its hired spokespeople and its multi-national conglomerate owner.” [Flathead News Group, Bill Dakin Open Letter, [3/23/15](#)]

**Zinke Opposed EPA Superfund Listing Of CFAC, Said “I Would Prefer That We Agree Upon A Plan Founded On Private Enterprise To Get It Done Quicker.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., has been vocal in his opposition to the Superfund listing, sending letters earlier this month to the governor and the EPA that supported the company’s plans. ‘Given EPA’s track record of not being timely and efficient, I would prefer that we agree upon a plan founded on private enterprise to get it done quicker,’ said Zinke, who is from Whitefish.” [Daily Inter Lake, [3/24/15](#)]

**Zinke Said A Contract Should Be Signed “Between Glencore And The State Of Montana Or Another Public Entity.”**

Zinke said, “I think they need to sign a contract that this is the process, and that contract should be between Glencore and the state of Montana or another public entity.” [Daily Inter Lake, [3/24/15](#)]

**Zinke Said He Was Concerned Super Fund Listing Would Create A Stigma For Columbia Falls**

“Zinke and others have also raised concerns that the listing will create a stigma for Columbia Falls by drawing attention to the contaminated site, a contention to which Barnhart objected. ‘It would attach a stigma to us if we just let it go on. That would say that we’re not concerned,’ he said. ‘Waiting on Glencore so far has just not been a good deal.’” [Daily Inter Lake, [3/24/15](#)]

**Zinke Claimed “Superfund Projects Notoriously Go Over Budget And Taxpayers End Up Bearing The Financial Burden” Despite “Polluter Pays” Principle**

“Zinke said Superfund projects notoriously go over budget and taxpayers end up bearing the financial burden, despite the program’s ‘polluter pays’ principle that is the keystone of Superfund.” [Flathead Beacon, [3/31/15](#)]

**Zinke Admitted That A Government Agency (Preferably The State) Would Need To Put Pressure On Glencore To Clean Up CFAC, Said He Would “Be Willing To Spend My Time” Restarting Talks With The Company.”**

“Admitting that a government agency needs to be involved to put pressure on the company, he said the state would be the best entity to handle that task. However, Glencore walked away from discussions with the state last December after refusing to relinquish certain authority over the cleanup process. ‘I would be willing to spend my time [restarting the talks],’ Zinke said afterward. ‘But what I ask is that the people at the table don’t come in with an agenda.’” [Daily Inter Lake, [4/2/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I’ll Jump On Whatever Train Will Get That Property Clean The Fastest.”**

“Zinke reiterated his position that the cleanup should be overseen by the state rather than the EPA to get fastest mitigation. ‘I’ll jump on whatever train will get that property clean the fastest,’ he added.” [Whitefish Pilot, [4/2/15](#)]

**Zinke Said He “Fear[ed]” CFAC Would “Never Come Off” Superfund Fund List If It Was Designated As A Superfund Site, Which He Said Would Cause Property Values To “Plummet”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke fielded questions from a mostly acquiescent audience April 2 during his visit to Kalispell for a town hall meeting, even as a smattering of questions fell outside of the rank-and-file Republican dogma that typified the crowd. [...] The problem with designation as a Superfund site is there are 18 Superfund sites in Montana and not one of them has been removed. My fear is that once it goes on Superfund it will never come off and property values will plummet,’ Zinke told audience members, adding that an 18-month independent investigation by Glencore, through an independent consulting firm, is the best course of action.” [Flathead Beacon, [4/5/15](#)]

**Columbia Falls Chamber Of Commerce President Did Not Believe Superfund Designation Would Hurt Local Economic Future, Urged Zinke “To Get Behind The People And Not The Company.”**

“But Schnebel, who recently met with Tester along with Columbia Falls Mayor Don Barnhart, City Manager Susan Nicosia, city council members and members of the local business community, balked at the notion that Superfund designation would jeopardize the community’s economic future, which she painted as bright, and said the community had ‘lost faith in Glencore.’ The community supports [cleanup] and we would love it if you could get behind the people and not the company,’ Schnebel said.” [Flathead Beacon, [4/5/15](#)]

**Columbia Falls Chamber Of Commerce President Said It Seemed Zinke Had “Best Interests Of Glencore In Mind,” Said Community Had Grown Frustrated With Glencore After Repeated Empty Promises**

“Based on the tone of your letter opposing listing, it seems to us that you have the best interest of Glencore in mind.’ [Schnebel] said the community has grown increasingly frustrated with the company through the years as it’s made a series empty promises to reopen, dragged its feet and stalled, and ended negotiations with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.” [Flathead Beacon, [4/5/15](#)]

**Columbia Falls Chamber Of Commerce President Said It Was “Pretty Pie In The Sky” To Believe Glencore Would Lead Cleanup, Said She Wanted Zinke To Stand With His Constituents, “Not The Interests Of A Corporation.”**

“She said any confidence the community had in Glencore taking the lead on a thorough cleanup has diminished. ‘I think that’s pretty pie in the sky,’ she said. ‘What we would like to see as your constituents is for you to stand behind the people of Columbia Falls and not the interests of a corporation.’” [Flathead Beacon, [4/5/15](#)]

**Voted Against Ending the Need for the State to Recover Costs Related to Hazardous Materials**

In March 2011, Zinke voted against eliminating the requirement for the state of Montana to recover from a city or county a percentage of certain costs related to incidents involving hazardous material. The bill passed (44-4). [[HB 131](#), [3/26/11](#)]

**Supported Using State Funds to Clean Former Industrial Sites**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for using state funds to clean up former industrial and commercial sites that were contaminated, unused, or abandoned. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

**OTHER**

**Voted Against a Bill that Would Have Weakened the Montana Environmental Policy Act**

In March 2011, Zinke voted against a bill that would have weakened the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The bill passed (26-21). [[SB 317](#), [3/19/11](#)]

**Called Himself “a Teddy Roosevelt Republican... I am About Conservation”**

In January 2009, in his first month of serving as a State Senator, Zinke called himself “a Teddy Roosevelt Republican” and said he was “about conservation.” Zinke said, “I’m a Teddy Roosevelt Republican and I have to explain that. You know, I look back 100 years of Presidents that I thought had it right. And Teddy Roosevelt didn’t do everything right, but 90 percent of the time, I think he was spot-on. And Teddy Roosevelt broke the monopolies but he wasn’t pro-labor or pro-business, he was pro-fair. So I am about jobs, I am about conservation, and I’m about education.” [YouTube, [1/15/09](#)]

**...BUT Voted to Exempt Stimulus Projects from the Montana Environmental Policy Act**

In February 2009, Zinke voted to exempt economic stimulus projects from the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The bill passed (29-21). [[SB 481](#), [2/25/09](#)]

## FINANCIAL ISSUES

- ✓ Zinke voted to stall “Operation Choke Point”, a DOJ program designed to hinder businesses suspected of committing consumer fraud.
- ✓ He voted to nullify the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s guidance on indirect auto lending.
- ✓ He voted against increasing the financing available to the Export-Import Bank by 5% each year for 4 years.
- ✓ An opinion-editorial noted that Zinke’s office seemed more interested in eliminating all banking regulations.
- ✓ He voted for consideration of a bill restricting the ability to regulate Wall Street’s banks’ overseas trades.
- ✓ He voted to weaken the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- ✓ He voted for a bill to deregulate Wall Street, and against a motion to prohibit individuals who finance terrorism from qualifying for regulatory exemptions.
- ✓ He voted against blocking benefits for those convicted of assisting terrorists.
- ✓ He voted to weaken Wall Street reform.

### **Zinke Voted to Prohibit Fed Banking Agencies from Terminating Customer Accounts Without Reason**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for a: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit federal banking agencies from requesting or ordering that a bank terminate a customer account without material reason. A belief that the customer threatens national security would count as a material reason. The bill would require the agency to give the bank their request or order along with a justification in writing. As amended, the bill would require banks ordered to terminate a customer’s account to inform customers of the justification. This provision would not apply if the account was ordered terminated due to national security concerns. Further, the bill would limit the Justice Department’s ability seek civil penalties involving financial institutions as well as its subpoena authority in such cases. It would allow the attorney general to summon witnesses or require production of records either through court order or through personally signing, or delegating to no lower than the deputy attorney general, a subpoena, which would need to be supported by ‘specific and articulable facts’ that show reasonable grounds that the testimony would be relevant to an investigation.” The bill passed by 250-169. [CQ, [2/4/16](#), H.R. 766, Vote 63, [2/4/16](#)]

### **Bill Would Stall “Operation Choke Point,” a DoJ Program Designed to “Choke” Businesses Suspected Of Committing Consumer Fraud**

“The House passed legislation on Thursday to limit regulators’ ability to request shutting off bank accounts associated with businesses suspected of fraud. Passed largely along party lines by a vote of 250-169, the bill would prevent banking regulators from requesting or ordering banks to close specific customer accounts unless the reason isn’t based solely on reputation. Circumstances involving threats to national security would also qualify. [...] The legislation would effectively stall ‘Operation Choke Point,’ a Justice Department initiative

announced in 2013 that has sought to ‘choke’ businesses suspected of committing consumer fraud by hindering their access to the financial system.” [The Hill, Floor Action, [2/4/16](#)]

### **Only 10 Democrats Supported Bill**

“Only 10 Democrats joined with Republicans to support the measure after House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) urged lawmakers in a ‘Dear Colleague’ letter Wednesday night to oppose it.” [The Hill, Floor Action, [2/4/16](#)]

### **Republicans Said Bill Would Ensure Due Process for Businesses & Prevent Bias**

“Republicans argued the proposal would ensure due process for businesses and prevent bias against entities merely considered to have risk based on their reputation.” [The Hill, Floor Action, [2/4/16](#)]

### **Obama Issued Veto Threat Against Bill, Saying That Bill Would Impede Regulators’ Ability To Enforce Financial Laws**

“The Obama administration issued a veto threat against the bill, saying that a new written material requirement would impede regulators’ ability to enforce financial laws. ‘Restricting the federal banking agencies in this way could unnecessarily and dangerously hinder or compromise important law enforcement and national security efforts,’ the White House said in a statement of administration policy.” [The Hill, Floor Action, [2/4/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Limiting Bill to After Proof No Financial Inst. Penalties Under Servicemembers Civil Relief Act or Mortgage Fraud**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Castor, D-Fla., motion to recommit the bill to the House Financial Services Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would make the bill effective on the day that the attorney general and federal financial regulatory agencies certify that in the past five years no federally regulated financial institutions have been subject to settlements or to civil or criminal penalties for violating the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act or for fraud or unfair or deceptive practices related to mortgage products.” The motion was rejected 177-240. [CQ, [2/4/16](#), H.R. 766, Vote 62, [2/4/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Increase to \$10M Securities Privately-Held Companies Can Sell For Employee Compensation**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would direct the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to increase from \$5 million to \$10 million the annual amount of securities that privately-held companies can sell for employee compensation without needing to disclose certain information to investors. As amended, the bill would require the SEC to review its existing significant regulations, determine whether they are outmoded, ineffective or excessively burdensome, and modify or repeal such rules. As amended, the bill also would exempt from SEC registration requirements certain firms that broker mergers and acquisitions. As amended, it also would exempt emerging growth companies and companies with annual revenues of less than \$250 million from the current requirement for companies to submit financial statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission in an interactive data format known as eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL).” The bill was passed by a vote of 265-159. [CQ, [2/3/16](#); H.R. 1675, Vote 61, [2/3/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Report on Employee Ownership Plans at Companies with Flexible or Social Benefits**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “DeSaulnier, D-Calif., amendment that would direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to study and report to Congress on the prevalence of employee ownership plans within companies that include a flexible or social benefit component in their articles of incorporation, as permitted by relevant state laws.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 180-243. [CQ, [2/3/16](#); DeSaulnier of California Amdt. 1 to H.R. 1675, Vote 57, [2/3/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Limiting for Emerging Growth Companies & Companies With Annual Revenues of Less Than \$250M from Use of XBRL**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Issa, R-Calif., amendment that would limit the exemption under the bill for emerging growth companies and companies with annual revenues of less than \$250 million from the current requirement for companies to use eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL), an interactive data format, for filing financial statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Specifically, the amendment would limit the exemption to issuers that are first required to file financial statements after the bill’s enactment.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 194-221. [CQ, [2/3/16](#); Issa of California Amdt. 6 to H.R. 1675, Vote 58, [2/3/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Exempt Emerging Growth Companies & Companies With Annual Revenues Of Less Than \$250M from XBRL**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Ellison, D-Minn., amendment that would remove the section of the bill that would exempt emerging growth companies and companies with annual revenues of less than \$250 million from the current requirement for companies to submit financial statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission in an interactive data format known as eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL).” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 173-248. [CQ, [2/3/16](#); Maloney of New York Amdt. 7 to H.R. 1675, Vote 59, [2/3/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting Individuals Convicted of Felonies or Misdemeanors Involving Securities From Making Use of the Exemptions**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Frankel, D-Fla., motion to recommit the bill to the House Financial Services Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would prohibit individuals convicted of felonies or misdemeanors involving securities from making use of the exemptions or other authorities that would be provided under the bill.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 184-241. [CQ, [2/3/16](#); H.R. 1675, Vote 60, [2/3/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Require the Federal Reserve to Develop Detailed Strategies for Monetary Policy Reviewed by the GAO**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would require the Federal Reserve to develop detailed strategies for monetary policy that would be reviewed by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), require the Fed chairman to testify before Congress if GAO determines that the strategy does not comply with bill requirements, and provide for GAO audits of all Fed activities, including its deliberations over monetary policy. Further, the bill would require that the Fed conduct cost-benefit analyses of all proposed rules, provide greater public disclosure, and limit its emergency lending powers, only allowing these powers to be used if a supermajority of Fed governors and Federal Reserve Bank presidents agree. The bill would establish a Centennial Monetary Commission to study monetary policy in the United States since the creation of the Federal Reserve System and to consider the proper mandate for the Fed in the 21st century. Lastly, the bill defines the Reference Policy, or Taylor, Rule as a specific calculation of the nominal federal funds interest rate. As amended, the bill would ensure that the Federal Open Market Committee uses the most up-to-date and accurate data for the Directive Policy and Reference Policy Rules. Further, the bill, as amended, would make the Federal Reserve’s audit annual. Lastly, the bill, as amended, would require the Federal Open Market Committee’s meeting transcripts to be available to the public.” The bill passed by a vote of 241-185. [CQ, [11/19/15](#); H.R. 3189, Vote 641, [11/19/15](#)]

### ***The Hill: Opponents Argued That Opening Up The Federal Reserve’s Deliberations To Public Scrutiny Would Politicize Its Decision-Making Process***

“The Federal Reserve would be subject to a controversial public audit under legislation passed by the House on Thursday. A bill authored by Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.) to overhaul how the nation’s central banking system operates passed on a largely party-line vote of 241-185. Conservatives have been pushing for years to ‘audit the Fed’ in pursuit of promoting transparency. The Fed is not using a transparent monetary policy. And

so because of this, greater transparency, greater accountability is necessary. Otherwise, we may soon awake to discover that our central bankers have morphed into our central planners,' said House Financial Services Committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas). But the central bank maintains that opening up its deliberations to public scrutiny would politicize its decision-making process. 'The Federal Reserve is an independent entity designed to be free from political pressures, and its independence is key to its credibility and its ability to act in the long-term interest of the Nation's economic health,' the Obama administration wrote in its veto threat against the bill. Conservatives have been pushing for years to 'audit the Fed' in pursuit of promoting transparency." [The Hill, Floor Action, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Nullify the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) Guidance On Indirect Auto Lending**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: "Passage of a bill that would nullify the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) guidance on indirect auto lending published on March 21, 2013. The bill would require the CFPB to provide for a public notice and comment period, make available to the public all data and analysis used in preparing the guidance, and consult with the boards of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Justice Department when proposing and issuing guidance on indirect auto financing. As amended, the bill would ensure that the CFPB is required to conduct a study on the costs and impacts of guidance on veteran-owned businesses, rural customers, and rural small businesses in addition to studying the costs and impacts on women-owned, minority-owned, and small businesses. Further, the bill, as amended, would clarify that nothing in this bill shall be construed to apply to guidance issued by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that is not primarily related to indirect auto financing." The bill passed 332-96. [CQ, [11/18/15](#); HR 1737, Vote 637, [11/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosponsored the Bill To Provide Requirements For Guidance Issued By The Bureau With Respect To Indirect Auto Lending**

In October 2015, Zinke cosponsored: "A bill to nullify certain guidance of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and to provide requirements for guidance issued by the Bureau with respect to indirect auto lending." [CQ, Accessed [10/7/15](#); H.R. 1737, Co-sponsored 10/6/15, Introduced [4/13/15](#)]

### **Headline: "Lawmakers Line Up To Make It Easier To Discriminate Against You When You Buy A Car."**

[Think Progress, [11/17/15](#)]

### **Bill Would Override The CFPB's Efforts To Combat Auto Loan Discrimination & Prevent The CFPB From Re-Issuing The Rule Until It Produces More Research**

"A bill to allow racially discriminatory car lending practices is up for a vote in the House this week. If it passes, it could restore a system that routinely charges black and Latino borrowers hundreds of dollars more for car loans than similarly-qualified white borrowers. The legislation would override the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's efforts to combat the auto loan discrimination and prevent the CFPB from re-issuing the rule until it produces more research on the matter. With more than 50 Democrats joining scads of Republicans in co-sponsoring the measure, H.R. 1737 is a rare example of bipartisanship in 2015." [Think Progress, [11/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Increasing Financing Available To The Export-Import Bank, By 5% Each Fiscal Year For 4 Yrs.**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against the: "Perry, R-Pa., amendment that would increase by five percent each fiscal year for four years the percent of financing available to the Export-Import Bank that it is required to set aside for small businesses. Absent an increase in the set-aside, the bank would be temporarily barred from issuing guarantees, insurance or credit more than \$100 million benefitting one person." The amendment was rejected by a vote of 121-303. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H.Amdt.806 to H.R. 22, Vote 607, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting the Export-Import Bank from Guaranteeing, Insuring or Extending Credit on Transactions**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Mulvaney, R-S.C., amendment that would prohibit the Export-Import Bank from guaranteeing, insuring or extending credit involving transactions that do not meet competition from foreign export credit agencies.” [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H.Amdt.807 to H.R. 22, Vote 608, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring Export-Import Bank Recipients To Have Been Denied Financing By Private Sector Lenders At Least Twice Before Receiving Loans Over \$10 Million, And To Create Penalties For Inaccurate Claims Of Foreign Competitors’ Access To Loans**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Mulvaney, R-S.C., amendment that would require recipients of Export-Import Bank financing of more than \$10 million to have been denied financing at least twice by the private sector. It also would institute penalties for inaccurate claims made by financing recipients about the availability of competing foreign export financing or private sector financing.” The amendment was rejected 124-302. [CQ, [11/4/15](#), H.Amdt.808 to H.R.22, Vote 609, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting The Export-Import Bank From Providing Financing To Foreign Companies That Benefited From Foreign Government Backing, If The Foreign Government’s Wealth Was More Than \$100 Billion**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Mulvaney, R-S.C., amendment that would prohibit the Export-Import Bank from providing financing to foreign companies that benefit from support from a foreign government if the foreign government’s sovereign wealth funds have a value of more than \$100 billion.” The amendment was rejected 116-308. [CQ, [11/4/15](#), H.Amdt.809 to H.R.22, Vote 610, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Eliminating Treasury Department Guarantee Of Losses At Export-Import Bank**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Mulvaney, R-S.C., amendment that would eliminate the Treasury Department’s guarantee of losses at the Export-Import Bank.” The amendment was rejected 117-308. [CQ, [11/4/15](#), H.Amdt.810 to H.R.22, Vote 611, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring The Export-Import Bank’s Lending In Single Industrial Sector Be Limited To 20% Of The Bank’s Total Lending, And To Prohibit Bank From Issuing Lending That Would Cause An Individual Person To Benefit From More Than 10% Of Total Lending By The Bank In One Fiscal Year**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Mulvaney, R-S.C., amendment that would require the Export-Import Bank’s credit exposure in a single industrial sector to be limited to 20 percent of the bank’s total credit exposure. It also would prohibit the bank from issuing financing in a fiscal year if doing so would result in a single person benefitting from more than 10 percent of the total dollar amount of the bank’s credit assistance in the fiscal year.” The amendment was rejected 114-314. [CQ, [11/4/15](#), H.Amdt.811 to H.R.22, Vote 612, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting The Export-Import Bank From Financing Foreign Borrower Connected To A U.S. Exporter Without Repayment Guarantee From U.S. Exporter, A Pledge Of Collateral, And Guarantee That Repayment To Ex-Im Would Be Made Before Any Other Debt Obligations**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Rothfus, R-Pa., amendment that would prohibit the Export-Import Bank from providing financing to a foreign borrower in connection with the export of goods or services by a U.S. company without a guarantee from the company of repayment by the foreign borrower, and a pledge of collateral, in certain percentages specified in the measure. It also would require that the guarantee be senior to any other obligation. Small businesses would be exempt.” The amendment was rejected 115-313. [CQ, [11/4/15](#), H.Amdt.812 to H.R.22, Vote 613, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit The Export-Import Bank From Providing Financing To An Entity Designated A State-Sponsor Of Terrorism By The Secretary Of State**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “Royce, R-Calif., amendment that would prohibit the Export-Import Bank from providing financing to an entity designated a state-sponsor of terrorism by the secretary of State.” The amendment was rejected 183-244. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); Amdt. 8 to HR 22, Vote 614, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring The Financial Statements Of The Export-Import Bank To Be In Accordance With Fair Value Accounting Principles**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Schweikert, R-Ariz., amendment that would require financial statements of the Export-Import Bank to be in accordance with fair value accounting principles.” The amendment was rejected 133-295. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); Amdt. 9 to HR 22, Vote 615, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Allowing Companies To Directly Appeal To The Export-Import Bank’s Board Of Directors Regarding Allegations That The Company Would Suffer Economic Harm From A Proposed Bank Transaction**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Westmoreland, R-Ga., amendment that would allow companies to appeal directly to the Export-Import Bank’s board of directors regarding an allegation that the company would suffer economic harm from a proposed bank transaction.” The amendment was rejected 129-298. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); Amdt. 23 to HR 22, Vote 616, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Reauthorize The Import-Export Bank’s Charter Through Fiscal 2019**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would reauthorize the Import-Export Bank’s charter through fiscal 2019. The bill would reduce, from \$140 billion to \$135 billion, the limit on the amount of loans, guarantees and insurance the bank could have outstanding at any given time, and would prohibit the bank from issuing new loans if the default rate reaches or exceeds two percent. It would also direct the bank to increase the minimum amount of its financing required to be dedicated to small business from 20 to 25 percent. The measure would also establish chief risk officer and chief ethics officer positions, and would require the bank to be subject to an audit by the Government Accountability Office audit every four years.” The bill passed by a vote of 313-118. [CQ, [10/27/15](#); H.R. 597, Vote 576, [10/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Consideration of Reauthorizing & Making Changes to the Export-Import Bank’s Charter through FY 2019**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Fincher, R-Tenn., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the resolution (H Res 450) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 597) that would reauthorize and make changes to the Export-Import Bank’s charter through fiscal 2019.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 271-158. [CQ, [10/27/15](#); H.R. 597, Vote 572, [10/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Reauthorizing & Making Changes To The Export-Import Bank’s Charter Through Fiscal 2019**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 450) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 597) that would reauthorize and make changes to the Export-Import Bank’s charter through fiscal 2019.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 275-154. [CQ, [10/27/15](#); H.Res. 450, Vote 573, [10/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Providing Floor Consideration Of A Bill That Would Reauthorize The Export-Import Bank Through Fiscal 2019**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Fincher, R-Tenn., motion to discharge from the House Rules Committee and bring to the House floor the rule (H Res 450) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 597) that would reauthorize the Export-Import Bank through fiscal 2019.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 246-177. [CQ, [10/26/15](#); H. Res. 450, Vote 569, [10/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Establish A Legal Framework For Private Secondary Market Transactions**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Garrett, R-N.J., motion to suspend the rules and pass a bill that would amend the Securities Act of 1933 to establish a legal framework for private secondary market transactions by adding certain accredited investor transactions to the list of unregistered securities permitted to be sold through interstate commerce and through the mail.” Motion was agreed to 404-0. [CQ, [10/6/15](#); H.R. 1839, Vote 535, [10/6/15](#)]

### **Ed Silverstein Op-Ed: Zinke’s Office Seemed More Interested In Eliminating All Banking Regulations**

“Imagine you bought a wonderful river front property. You’ve loved the place, but priorities have changed and now you either want or need to sell. You accept an offer for \$220,000, but the appraisal comes in at \$193,000. How could this happen: the house right next to you, almost identical to yours, sold two years ago for \$257,000 and the markets has improved? The answer is Congress. [...] I have made three calls and sent two emails to Sen. Tester’s office, but all went unanswered. And though both Sen. Steve Daines and Congressman Ryan Zinke were responsive, their offices seemed more interested in eliminating all banking regulation, which would only set us up for a repeat performance, and the potential for another financial collapse and bank bail-out.” [Great Falls Tribune, Ed Silverstein Op-Ed, [7/26/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration On A Vote To Re-Authorize A Long-Term Transportation Bill And To Crack Down On Corporations That Avoid Taxes By Moving Overseas**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration on “a vote to re-authorize a long-term Transportation Bill that provides 6 years of funding so states and localities can address critical infrastructure needs. The bill would also stop corporations that seek to move abroad to avoid paying their taxes and use that money for transportation improvements here in America.” A vote against the previous question was to force the vote on the long-term Transportation bill and the crackdown on corporations that move overseas to avoid paying taxes. The motion to order the previous question passed, 245 to 182. [H Res 362, [Vote #438](#), 7/15/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [7/15/15](#)]

### **Voted For Consideration Of Bill To Re-Authorize The Export-Import Bank**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for consideration of a bill to re-authorize the Export-Import Bank. “The Democratic Previous Question would force a vote to re-authorize the Ex-Im Bank, ending Republicans’ needless crisis.” The previous question passed 243 to 181. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H.Res. 333, [Vote #379](#), 6/24/15]

### **Voted For Consideration Of Bill Restricting Ability Of Commodity Futures Trading Administration Ability To Regulate Wall Streets’ Banks Overseas Trades**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the consideration of a bill reauthorizing the Commodity Futures Trading Administration. “The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to curb the power of the nation’s top derivatives regulator, advancing the measure over Democrats’ objections and in the face of a veto threat from President Barack Obama. The Republican-led House on Tuesday voted 246-171, mostly along party-lines, for a bill that would renew the responsibilities of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission while limiting its ability to regulate Wall Street banks’ overseas trades. It also would force the CFTC to do more cost-analysis of its rules, a key requirement that could stall the agency’s work.” The resolution passed 243 to 182. [H. Res. 288, [Vote #274](#), 6/03/15; Bloomberg News, [6/09/15](#)]

### **Bloomberg News: Bill Would Force CFTC To Conduct Additional Cost Analysis Of Its Rules, “A Key Requirement That Could Stall The Agency’s Work”**

“The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to curb the power of the nation’s top derivatives regulator, advancing the measure over Democrats’ objections and in the face of a veto threat from President Barack Obama. The Republican-led House on Tuesday voted 246-171, mostly along party-lines, for a bill that would renew the responsibilities of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission while limiting its ability to

regulate Wall Street banks' overseas trades. It also would force the CFTC to do more cost-analysis of its rules, a key requirement that could stall the agency's work." [Bloomberg News, [6/09/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Weakening Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that limited funding for the CFPB. "Passage of the bill that would formally establish three advisory boards with which the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) that must consult on matters regarding small businesses, credit unions and community banks. The measure is offset by limiting funding for the CFPB in future years. As amended, the bill would encourage the CFPB to ensure the participation of veteran-owned small-business concerns as members of the Small Business Advisory Board." The bill passed 235-183. [HR 1195, [Vote #167](#), 4/22/15; CQ News, [4/22/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Measure To Prohibit Individuals Or Companies Convicted Of Predatory Lending From Serving On CFPB Boards**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that protected military bases and veterans from predatory lenders. The motion would "prohibit individuals from serving as members of the any of the advisory boards if within the last ten years they have been employed or acted as an agent of a company whose been subject to a state or federal enforcement action for predatory lending or fraud against veterans or servicemembers." The motion was rejected, 184-234. [HR 1195, [Vote #166](#), 4/22/15; CQ News, [4/22/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Requiring Minority And Women Owned Small Business Representatives On Small Business Advisory Council**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment "that would require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to include representatives of minority- and women-owned small-business concerns as members of the Small Business Advisory Board." The amendment was passed 244-173. [HR 1195, [Vote #165](#), 4/22/15; CQ News, [4/22/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Considering Bill Establishing Small Business, Credit Union, and Community Bank Advisory Boards On House Floor**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for considering a bill establishing a small business advisory board, credit union advisory council, and community bank advisory council as a part of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The rule was adopted, 242-182. [HRes 200, [Vote #155](#), 4/15/15; CQ Votes, [4/15/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted for the Confidentiality & Privilege Enhancement Act**

On April 13, 2015, Zinke voted for: "Neugebauer, R-Texas, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would provide confidentiality protections to financial services regulators when they access information in the national mortgage licensing and registry system." The motion was agreed to by a vote of 401-0. [CQ, [4/13/15](#); H.R.1480, Vote 147, [4/13/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Provided Rural Communities With Better Access To Credit Opportunities**

On April 13, 2015, Zinke voted for: "Neugebauer, R-Texas, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to create a process for individuals to apply for areas to be considered rural (under an existing CFPB rule, a prohibition on balloon payments for qualified mortgages does not apply to small lenders in rural or underserved counties). The measure would specify certain factors the agency would need to consider when evaluating applications." The motion was agreed to by a vote of 401-1. [CQ, [4/13/15](#); H.R.1259, Vote 145, [4/13/15](#)]

#### **Voted For a Bill to Deregulate Wall Street**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for legislation that combined the text from eleven bills and would roll back or delay a number of regulations in the Dodd-Frank financial reform law. "The most serious attack of the bunch came in the form of a partial two-year delay of the Volcker Rule, which would ban banks from speculating in securities markets with taxpayer money. The bill would have allowed Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase to hold

onto almost \$50 billion in risky corporate debt packages known as collateralized loan obligations through 2019.” The bill passed, 271 to 154. [HR 37, [Vote #37](#), 1/14/15; Huffington Post, [1/10/14](#)]

### **Voted Against Motion That Would Prohibit Individuals Who Finance Terrorism From Qualifying For Regulatory Exemptions**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would disqualify anyone convicted of providing financial assistance to terrorist organizations or state sponsors of terrorism from regulatory relief under the underlying bill, the Promoting Job Creation and Reducing Small Business Burdens Act. The motion failed 183 to 242. [HR 37, [Vote #37](#), 1/14/15; Motion to Recommit, [1/14/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Blocking Benefits For Those Convicted Of Assisting Terrorists**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to recommit that would prohibit any person or financial entity that has been convicted of providing assistance to terrorist groups or state sponsors of terrorism from receiving the benefits of Republicans’ wall-street giveaway bill. The motion failed, 183-242. [HR 37, [Vote #36](#), 1/14/15; Democratic Leader – Motions to Recommit, [1/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For Weakening Wall Street Reform**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for a bill “to relax some requirements under the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulatory law. The measure would delay until July 2019 a provision of the law’s Volcker Rule intended to limit risky investments by banks, and make other changes.” The vote failed to reach a 2/3 majority, 276 to 146. [HR 37, [Vote #9](#), 1/7/15; Bloomberg, [1/7/15](#)]

## FOREIGN POLICY

- ✓ Zinke has a history of fear mongering in foreign policy issues, citing his military experience to and inciting fear to gain national attention.
- ✓ Zinke said: “I don’t think you can fix Africa.”
- ✓ He urged the U.S. to deploy the navy “forward” to deter China’s aggression.
- ✓ IRAN: He was a vocal opponent and voted against the Iran Nuclear agreement, even putting forward a proposal to cut funding to the IAEA if they did not make all documents public, causing nuclear thought leaders to write an open letter warning of dire consequences. Zinke also frequently inflammatory language and grave threats to insight fear.
- ✓ SYRIAN REFUGEES: Zinke was such a vocal and inflammatory opponent of allowing Syrian refugees to enter the U.S. that he drew vocal criticism– including *Missoulian* and *Billings Gazette* editorials and comments from the Director of the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center –criticizing him for using “fear monger[ing] trying to capitalize on distrust of foreigners.”

*NOTE: This section is separated into subsections according to the relevant nation.*

### **Zinke Told CPAC That China Was Expanding Territory, Iran Wanted to Dominate the Middle East**

In 2016, Zinke said, while on a panel at CPAC, “Zinke, who is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said due to the Obama Administration’s policies, ‘Vacuums are being formed and vacuums are being filled’ around the world. He pointed to China’s aggressive moves in the South China Sea, where it is creating artificial islands with military bases and making new territorial claims. Zinke believes Iran is actually trying to reconstitute the ancient Persian Empire, and exercise total domination in the Middle East. In the congressman’s estimation, Obama’s Iran nuclear deal does little to thwart this, and in fact, gives the rogue regime a clear path to do so. The Montanan pointed out that sanctions against Iran’s conventional weapons are lifted in five years. In eight years, the ban on testing intercontinental ballistic missiles is removed, and in 10 years, Iran’s nuclear weapons program can openly come back online. Iran has already been conducting medium-range ballistic missile tests in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions... The congressman believes this election offers a great opportunity for conservatives. ‘If Jimmy Carter gave the country Ronald Reagan, imagine who Barack Obama will give us,’ Zinke said.” [Western Journalism, [3/03/16](#)]

## AFGHANISTAN

## Zinke Criticized Green Beret Death in Afghanistan as “Another Benghazi”



Ryan Zinke

January 7 · 🌐

The more I hear about this, the more this seems like another Benghazi. The QRF was ready to go but told to stand down. Gunships in the air but told to stand down. All because overly restrictive rules of engagement which are meant more for politics than the battlefield. I'm calling on Sec Def Carter to come to Congress and brief us on the circumstances. We not only need to know the truth, we also need to fix it so this doesn't happen again.



### Rep. Zinke Questions Green Beret Death in Afghanistan

GOP Rep. Ryan Zinke is demanding answers about the death of a veteran Green Beret in Afghanistan amid speculation that delayed backup - and the...

NEWSMAX.COM

[Facebook, Ryan Zinke, 1/07/16]

## Zinke Called On POTUS To Maintain Current Troop Levels Of 9,800 In Afghanistan Through 2016

“As General Campbell, the U.S. Commander in Afghanistan, is making the rounds on Capitol Hill this week, nearly two dozen Republicans on the House Armed Services Committee are calling on President Obama to maintain current troop levels of 9,800 in Afghanistan through 2016. The letter, spearheaded by Congressman Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) and joined by Chairman Thornberry, warns of the ‘dangers of a premature drawdown of U.S. troops in Afghanistan,’ saying the country ‘will once again become a safe haven for terrorism if we choose to abandon our investment’ there.” [Office of Rep. Wenstrup, [10/6/15](#)]

## Zinke Said POTUS Decision To Delay Troop Withdraw From Afghanistan Was “Appropriate.”

(01:25) When asked about the President’s decision to delay troop withdraw from Afghanistan, Zinke said, “I think the decision to delay withdraw of the troops was appropriate. And I think the lesson learned from Iraq, this is what happens when you leave on a timeline when the conditions on the ground - certainly ISIS expansion and influence is a threat to Afghanistan.” [YouTube, One America News Network, [3/26/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## Voted Against Ending Spending On Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund Projects

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an “amendment that would strike provisions under the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund that allows the secretary of Defense to expend funds appropriated for existing projects under the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund.” The amendment passed, 233-199. [CQ Floor Votes, [6/10/15](#); HR 2685, [Vote #341](#), 6/10/15]

## AFRICA

## Zinke Voted for A 10-Year Extension of the African Growth And Opportunity Act

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Ryan, R-Wis., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill with an amendment that would provide a 10-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, renew the Generalized System of Preferences and extend certain programs dealing with duty-free treatment of Haitian textiles and apparel. It would repeal an increase to the sequester of fiscal 2024 Medicare spending included in the Senate-passed version of a Trade Promotion Authority measure (HR 1314), contingent on enactment of the latter measure. The bill would provide offsets dealing with customs user fees, payment of corporate estimated taxes and penalties for businesses that fail to file correct tax and income information.” The motion was agreed to 397-32. [CQ, [6/11/15](#); H.R. 1295, Vote 345, [6/11/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said “I Don’t Think You Can Fix Africa”**

In January 2014, speaking at a Hometown Helena event, Zinke said “I don’t think you can fix Africa.” Zinke said, “Africa? I hope the Chinese invest every cent in Africa. Because I don’t think you can fix Africa. And if the Chinese, you know, Africa is rich in natural resources, but, you know, the European countries couldn’t fix Africa, we couldn’t fix Africa. If they Chinese want to invest everything they have in Africa, so be it. And if they can fix it, I’ll speak Mandarin Chinese. But I don’t think they can fix it. But again, it is about energy, it’s about resources, you know, and Montana, and this country, are blessed with the resources where we don’t need Africa, and we certainly don’t need the Middle East. That’s my answer.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

## **CANADA**

### **Zinke Said of U.S.-Canada Major Trade Agreement, American Timber Companies Needed to be Renegotiated Not Extended**

“Following the Oct. 12 expiration of a major trade agreement between the United States and Canada, American timber companies are pushing for a new deal that will limit the flow of cheap lumber into the states from their neighbors to the north. [...] The agreement prevents both countries from filing any trade grievances for one year after its expiration, but Van Heynegen felt confident that come October 2016, if there’s no lumber deal, the U.S. will see Canada in court. ‘They said the only thing they were interested in talking about is a renewal or extension of the now-expired agreement, and they didn’t want to talk about anything else,’ he said. ‘But since the expiration of the agreement, we’re seeing a shift, and we’re hopeful that means the Canadian government will come to the negotiating table. ‘Rep. Ryan Zinke agreed that the agreement needs to be renegotiated rather than extended. But the Whitefish Republican placed some of the blame on U.S. policies, particularly the failure to increase federal logging and approve the Keystone XL Pipeline — an issue of major importance to Canada. ‘Our ties run deep, and we have to do our duty on our side as well,’ Zinke said Friday. ‘When we don’t support Canada’s core industries, like oil and gas, what incentive is there to support our industries?’” [Daily Inter Lake, [10/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Blamed U.S. Failure To Increase Federal Logging & Approve The Keystone XL Pipeline For Canada’s Hesitancy In Renegotiating The Trade Agreement**

“Following the Oct. 12 expiration of a major trade agreement between the United States and Canada, American timber companies are pushing for a new deal that will limit the flow of cheap lumber into the states from their neighbors to the north. [...] The agreement prevents both countries from filing any trade grievances for one year after its expiration, but Van Heynegen felt confident that come October 2016, if there’s no lumber deal, the U.S. will see Canada in court. ‘They said the only thing they were interested in talking about is a renewal or extension of the now-expired agreement, and they didn’t want to talk about anything else,’ he said. ‘But since the expiration of the agreement, we’re seeing a shift, and we’re hopeful that means the Canadian government will come to the negotiating table. ‘Rep. Ryan Zinke agreed that the agreement needs to be renegotiated rather than extended. But the Whitefish Republican placed some of the blame on U.S. policies, particularly the failure to increase federal logging and approve the Keystone XL Pipeline — an issue of major importance to Canada. ‘Our ties run deep, and we have to do our duty on our side as well,’ Zinke said Friday. ‘When we don’t support Canada’s core industries, like oil and gas, what incentive is there to support our industries?’” [Daily Inter Lake, [10/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Met With Canadian Ambassador Gary Doer To Reopen Negotiations On The New Softwood Lumber Agreement**

“Huckleberries to Montana’s congressional delegation for meeting with a Canadian ambassador to begin negotiating a new Softwood Lumber Agreement. The previous agreement, which expired Oct. 12, imposed a tariff on Canadian lumber imports to better allow U.S. companies to compete against cheaper, subsidized Canadian lumber. This week, Montana Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines and Rep. Ryan Zinke met with Canadian Ambassador Gary Doer, seeking to reopen negotiations.” [Missoulian, Editorial, [10/23/15](#)]

## **Zinke Congratulated Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau On His Election And Emphasized The Importance Of The Canada/Montana Relationship**

“Montana Senator Steve Daines and Representative Ryan Zinke are reaching out to newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to emphasize Montana priorities and ensure continued economic growth on both sides of the northern border. In a letter, Daines and Zinke congratulated Trudeau on his recent election and underscored the treasured and crucial relationship between Canada and Montana. ‘The state of Montana has a great appreciation for the conducive working relationship we have fostered with our neighbors to the North,’ Daines and Zinke wrote. ‘We not only share a border, but we frequently work together to address pertinent trade, natural resources, agriculture, and national security concerns. We have found Canada to be a resourceful and respected partner, and it is our sincerest hope that moving forward, we can maintain this rapport.’ Daines and Zinke asked Trudeau for his cooperation on several issues important to Montana, including the Softwood Lumber Agreement, the Columbia River Treaty, wheat grading and construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.” [Office of Sen. Steve Daines, Press Release, [12/4/15](#)]

## **CHINA**

### **Zinke Voted To Require POTUS To Officially Request Observer Status For Taiwan In Interpol**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the president to instruct Interpol Washington to both officially request observer status for Taiwan in Interpol and to actively urge Interpol’s member states to support such observer status for Taiwan. It also would require the president to develop, and report to Congress describing, a strategy for obtaining observer status for Taiwan.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 392-0. [CQ, [11/2/15](#); HR 1853, Vote 582, [11/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Urged Chinese Ambassador Resolve the Trade Dispute Preventing China from Purchasing Polysilicon from REC Silicon**

“Senator Jon Tester, Senator Steve Daines, and Congressman Ryan Zinke are pushing to resolve a trade dispute between China and the United States that could negatively impact REC Silicon, one of Butte-Silver Bow’s largest employers. The Montana Congressional delegation has sent a letter to Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai urging him to work with the China Ministry of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative to resolve the trade dispute that is preventing China from purchasing polysilicon from REC Silicon to manufacture solar panels.” [Office of Sen. Jon Tester, Press Release, [10/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Expressed Concern Over The Unresolved Trade Dispute Between The U.S. And The People’s Republic Of China Involving Chinese-Produced Photovoltaic Solar Cells And Modules And U.S.-Produced Polysilicon**

“Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), joined by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA), and Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA) wrote today to Ambassador Cui Tiankai of China to express deep concern over the still-unresolved trade dispute between the U.S. and the People’s Republic of China involving Chinese-produced photovoltaic solar cells and modules and U.S.-produced polysilicon. The Members urged a prompt, mutually-agreeable settlement of the trade dispute to restore meaningful market access for U.S. polysilicon manufacturers exporting their products to Chinese customers.” Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Rep. Newhouse, Press Release, [10/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The United States Should Deploy The Navy “Forward” To Deter China’s Aggression**

In July 2015, Zinke was interviewed on Fox’s “Sunday Morning Futures.” “BARTIROMO: So what do you think the U.S. should be doing at this point? How do you handle this growing number of countries sort of skeptical of America at a minimum? ZINKE: Well, in the case of Russia, for instance, I think we should look at energy independence. I think we should look at hitting Russia with the free market, export our liquid natural gas. Certainly that would check, I think, Russia’s ability to be as aggressive. China, forward engagement, forward presence; our Navy needs to be deployed forward. And in the Middle East, we need a policy what to do in Syria. We need an adequate check on Iran. And I think the only thing that keeps me up at night really is Iran

having a nuclear weapon. And under no conditions should we allow Iran a legal path for a nuclear weapon. I think that would be a disaster in the Middle East. We would have an arms race. And unfortunately I think the probability of having a nuclear weapon coming in the United States through a surrogate increases.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [7/5/15](#)]

## CUBA

### **Zinke Voted Against Barring Funds To Facilitate New Flights to Cuba & Commercial Vessels Docked Or Anchored Within The Previous 180 Days Within 7 Miles Of Cuba**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Lee, D-Calif., amendment that would bar use of funds made available by the bill to administer, implement or enforce two sections of the bill. One section would bar use of funds to facilitate new flights originating from the United States that land, or pass through, property confiscated by the Cuban government. The other section would bar use of funds by the Federal Maritime Commission to issue a license or certificate for a commercial vessel that docked or anchored within the previous 180 days within seven miles of a port on property that was confiscated by the Cuban government.” The amendment failed 176-247. [CQ, [6/4/15](#); H.Amdt.404 to H.R. 2577, Vote 306, [6/4/15](#)]

### **The Hill: Amendment Would “Undo Republican Efforts To Impose Restrictions On Travel To Cuba.”**

“The House on Thursday defeated a proposal that would undo Republican efforts to impose restrictions on travel to Cuba amid President Obama’s efforts to normalize relations. The \$55.3 billion measure funding the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development contains language that would prevent licensing of new flights and cruise ship routes to Cuba if they land on or pass through property confiscated by the Castro regime.” [The Hill, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment To Ban Spending For Promoting The Cuban Military**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, that “prohibits use of funds to facilitate, permit, license, or promote exports to the Cuban military or intelligence service or to any officer of the Cuban military or intelligence service, or an immediate family member thereof.” The amendment failed 153-273. [HR 2578, [Vote #277](#), 6/03/15]

## EUROPE

### **Zinke Voted to Urge the US Work With Europe to Train & Share Information to Mitigate & Respond to Anti-Semitic Attacks**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Royce, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution that would state that the House of Representatives urges the U.S. government to work closely with European governments and their law enforcement agencies, as well as with certain other multilateral organizations, encouraging them to conduct a number of specified activities, including training and sharing information with Jewish community security groups to boost mitigation and response related to anti-Semitic attacks.” The motion was agreed to 418-0. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); H. Res. 354, Vote 585, [11/3/15](#)]

## IRAN

### **Zinke Voted for the Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act**

In 2016, a Zinke press release read, “Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for HR 3662, The Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act. This bill would bolster Congressional oversight over Iran sanctions, block the President from lifting sanctions on individuals or banks that engage with terrorist groups, and increase transparency measures in the Iran Nuclear Deal. Zinke has been a vocal critic of the Iran deal, voted against it, introduced legislation in December to make the secret side deals available to congress, and is a cosponsor of The Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act.” Zinke said,

“I know the danger Iran poses to the United States because I was a Commander in Iraq when their IEDs were killing our men and women... I have long warned of the dangers Iran poses that stretch beyond nuclear weapons. Iran is maneuvering in Iraq, they captured U.S. Navy Sailors under very suspicious circumstances, and in the last four months alone the Iranian regime has illegally test-fired two intercontinental ballistic missiles, despite the fact that such activity explicitly violates two United Nations Security Council resolutions. Now President Obama is awarding Iran with billions of dollars, despite the fact that Secretary Kerry admitted Iran will likely spend it on terrorist activity. This President and his party are the only ones surprised by Iran’s actions. I voted against the Iran nuclear deal because I knew the Iranian regime would not honor their side of the agreement. Now I’m calling on the President to honor his side of the agreement. Stop making excuses for this bad deal and reinstitute all the sanctions. The world cannot afford a nuclear Iran for the sake of the President’s legacy.” [Zinke House press release via States News Service, 2/02/16]

**Zinke Suggest Soldiers Detained by Iran May Have Been Due to “Iranian Jamming” of the GPS Systems**

In 2016, after incident where U.S. sailors were detained after venturing into Iranian waters, Zinke said, “We’re still trying to get the details from the Defense Department, which makes me wonder.” Zinke “suggested that ‘Iranian jamming’ of the boats’ GPS systems might have caused the sailors to leave international waters by mistake. It seems to me that a number of very straightforward planning considerations either weren’t planned, or the plan wasn’t followed,” Zinke told the *Examiner* on Tuesday. ‘Where did the Iranians intercept them? Did they intercept them with a superior force? Were they actually in Iranian territorial waters or were they in international waters?’” [Washington Examiner, 1/27/16]

**Zinke: “Iran’s Behavior Is Not That of a Responsible Nation... President Obama Has Only Emboldened Them.”**



Ryan Zinke shared Washington Free Beacon's photo.

January 13 · 🌐

I have said it before and I will say it again. Iran's behavior is not that of a responsible nation. They will not change for the better. President Obama has only emboldened them.



IRIB

Washington Free Beacon

January 13 · 🌐

👍 Like Page

REMINDER: We're about to release \$100 billion to the men who took this picture.

#Iran

[Facebook, Ryan Zinke, 1/13/16]

### **Zinke Claimed Gov. Story “Doesn’t Add Up” & Suggested It Was an Iranian Hostile Act**

Zinke claimed the story “doesn’t add up.” He said, “It doesn’t add up to me that somehow two boats are stranded within the territory of Iran waters... There’s a lot of questions out there that we have and I think Congress and the American people should know the answers.” The *Examiner* read, “Zinke, who concluded a 23-year naval career in 2008, said he can only think of two possible explanations -- either a failure of the sailors to execute ‘basic seamanship,’ or some as-yet-undisclosed Iranian belligerence... Zinke said it shouldn’t be possible for a mechanical failure to cause a patrol boat to drift into Iranian waters, because the vessels travel in pairs and carry towing bridles to ensure that one vessel can keep the other out of harm’s way. The lightly armed patrol boats also should have been on high alert given recent Iranian actions, such a military exercise that involved launching rockets approximately 1,500 yards away from a U.S. aircraft carrier. In the context of such provocative actions, Zinke speculated that Iran might have taken custody of the patrol boats as a hostile act.” [Washington Examiner, 1/26/16]

### **Zinke Sp. Resolution Urging POTUS & IAEA to Submit Text of All Side Agreements with Iran**

In December 2015, Zinke sponsored: “A resolution urging the President and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to submit to Congress the text of all side agreements entered into between the IAEA and Iran with respect to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.” [CQ, Accessed [12/7/15](#); H. Res. 553, Sponsored 12/3/15, Introduced [12/3/15](#)]

### ***The Hill*: “[Zinke] Introduced Legislation This Week That Would Bar Funding For The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) If It Does Not Provide Lawmakers Access To Secret Side Deals Signed With Iran.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) will introduce legislation this week that would bar funding for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) if it does not provide lawmakers access to secret side deals signed with Iran. The resolution would be attached it to the government funding measure known as the omnibus, and has the support of several House committee chairs. The international agency tasked with enforcing the nuclear deal signed with Iran earlier this year has told the U.S. it needs an additional \$10.6 million annually in order to do so. Since the U.S. is obliged to fund 25 percent of the agency’s budget, Congress would need to approve that funding. Zinke’s resolution would make funding conditional on Congress receiving the side deals. Zinke said that in reality, the U.S. provides the IAEA with 42 percent of its yearly operating costs. ‘It is apparent that the bulk, if not all, of this increased funding will be paid for by the American tax-payers,’ he said in a statement. ‘Congress has the Constitutional responsibility to control the power of the purse. If we are expected to foot the bill for these side deals, we should know what measures are included in them.’ [The Hill, [12/3/15](#)]

### **Hans Blix & Other Key Defense Leaders Wrote a Letter Calling the Move “Ill-Advised and Dangerous”**

On December 17, 2015, Hans Blix and a number of defense officials wrote a letter to Congress citing Zinke’s resolution (HR 553) and stating the agency must receive full funding. The letter read, “**As individuals who have dedicated our professional lives to national security and nuclear nonproliferation, we strongly urge that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) receive full funding to monitor Iran’s compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.** The United States, its international negotiating partners, and Iran continue to move towards full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which will restrict and monitor Iran’s nuclear activity in exchange for relief from economic sanctions related to its nuclear program. The nuclear watchdog organization, the IAEA, is responsible for verifying that Iran is in compliance with the agreement through an unprecedented system of intrusive inspections and safeguards. IAEA monitoring is essential for deterring and detecting illicit nuclear behavior by Iran; without adequate funding, the international community cannot responsibly verify that Iran’s nuclear program remains peaceful and in-line with its commitments. According to Director General Yukiya Amano, the IAEA requires an additional \$10.6 million per year to undertake this task. This additional funding will pay for new inspectors, the installation and maintenance of safeguard and verification technology, and other monitoring activities that exceed the surveillance normally conducted by the IAEA. Unfortunately, some key members of Congress advocate

blocking any U.S. contribution to these additional funds. On December 3, Rep. Ryan **Zinke (R-MT)** **introduced House Resolution 553, supported by several House committee chairs, urging that additional funding be blocked unless the IAEA releases confidential documents between it and Iran. Release of these documents would violate the confidentiality of the IAEA, which has been universally regarded as necessary to ensure the cooperation of countries with inspection and verification agreements.** Though the resolution is not legally binding, **it sets a dangerous precedent for future legislation. It is difficult to understand why Members of Congress would block verification of Iran's nuclear activities.** Such a self-defeating move would only increase the potential for Iran to hide violations of the agreement by reducing the likelihood of detection. We strongly urge Congress to ensure that the IAEA receives full funding to effectively monitor Iran's implementation of and compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Doing so will make the United States, its allies, and the world safer." [Blix Letter on Funding for IAEA, 12/17/15]

#### **Zinke Voted To Ban The Sale Of U.S.-Produced Oil To Iran**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for an: "Messer, R-Ind., amendment that would ban the sale of U.S.-produced oil to Iran." The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 419-0. [CQ, [10/9/15](#); H.Amdt.718 to H.R. 702, Vote 547, [10/9/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Approving Iran Nuclear Agreement**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against, "Passage of the bill that would express Congress' approval of the Iran nuclear agreement signed on July 14, 2015 between United States, Iran and five other nations." The bill was rejected 162-269. [CQ, [9/11/15](#), H.R. 3451, Vote 493, [9/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Delay Presidential Authority To Waive Iran Sanctions Until January 21, 2017**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for, "Passage of the bill that would delay until Jan. 21, 2017, the authority of the president to waive, suspend, or reduce existing sanctions on Iran or on Iranian officials or individuals slated to be granted relief from sanctions under the Iran nuclear agreement." The bill passed by 247-186. [CQ, [9/11/15](#), H.R.3460, Vote 494, [9/11/15](#)]

#### **Vote Would Delay Presidential Authority To Waive Sanctions Until The Day After A New President Was Sworn Into Office**

"The Republican-led House cast largely symbolic votes on Friday against the Iran nuclear deal and sought to restrict President Barack Obama's authority to lift sanctions against Tehran, one day after the Senate ensured that the administration can implement the accord without congressional interference. [...] In a second vote, the House passed 247 to 186 a measure to suspend until Jan. 21, 2017 — a day after a new president is sworn into office — Obama's authority to waive, suspend or reduce sanctions on Iran." [Associated Press, 9/11/15]

#### **Zinke Opposed POTUS' Iran Nuclear Deal Because It Paved A Way For Iran To Acquire A Nuclear Weapon.**

[YouTube, Senator Steve Daines, [9/17/15](#)] (VIDEO)

#### **Zinke Spoke About The Iranian Nuclear Deal On The Floor Of The House Of Representatives**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [9/11/15](#)] (VIDEO)

#### **Zinke: "I Cannot See How Taking This Deal Is In The Best Interest Of This Nation, Everyone Who Votes In Support Of This Is Going To Be Held Accountable."**

"Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester voted Thursday to help advance President Barack Obama's nuclear deal with Iran — while acknowledging that he's heard vocal opposition from many Montanans. [...] Zinke, a former U.S. Navy SEAL who served in the Middle East, has called the deal 'the greatest national security mistake of our time' and said it does not dismantle Iran's nuclear facilities. In an interview Thursday, he said the Obama administration has not provided Congress with all of the deal's documentation, including an agreement between Iran and an international atomic inspection agency. The House will vote this week against approving the deal,

and it should, he said. Lifting sanctions now in place will allow Iran to get conventional missile technology, purchase intercontinental ballistic missiles and possibly upgrade nuclear centrifuges in 13 years, Zinke said. 'I cannot see how taking this deal is in the best interest of this nation,' he said. 'Everyone who votes in support of this is going to be held accountable.' [KPAX, [9/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Iran Deal Made Iran's "Prayers Come True"**

"POTUS is allowing #Iran to take control in Iraq. Now he is making 'their prayers come true' with the #BadDeal. This is a dangerous precedent." [Twitter, @RepRyanZinke, [7/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Believed Iran Would Follow The Nuclear Agreement's Terms Because It Was In Iran's Best Interests**

"Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, made a surprise appearance at the weekly community forum, Hometown Helena, and said he didn't like the proposed nuclear agreement negotiated with Iran. Congressional lawmakers have yet to act on the proposed agreement that has divided them and stirred debate nationally. Zinke said he was in Whitefish before traveling to Billings to meet with the Israeli consulate. 'I think the deal's a bad deal,' he told the Hometown Helena audience on Thursday. 'I think not taking the deal's a bad deal.' He said he believed Iran would probably adhere to the agreement's terms because it's in Iran's best interests." [Helena Independent Record, [8/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Under The Iran Nuclear Agreement, Iran Would "Have Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles That Can Hit Helena," In Eight Years**

"Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, made a surprise appearance at the weekly community forum, Hometown Helena, and said he didn't like the proposed nuclear agreement negotiated with Iran. [...] Among the concerns Zinke outlined with the deal is that in five years, Iran will be allowed to have updated guidance systems and telemetry. In eight years, he continued, Iran will be allowed to have intercontinental ballistic missiles that can hit Helena." [Helena Independent Record, [8/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "My Concern Is Trust But Verify. I Don't Think The Verification Is Robust Enough And Secondly Does It Change Their Behavior? It Does Not."**

Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, made a surprise appearance at the weekly community forum, Hometown Helena, and said he didn't like the proposed nuclear agreement negotiated with Iran. [...] Zinke said he didn't believe the deal's language for verification was strong enough and said, 'I don't trust Iran, and you shouldn't either.' 'My concern is trust but verify. I don't think the verification is robust enough and secondly does it change their behavior? It does not,' he said after the Hometown Helena session. 'There's only one country that if Iran breaks the rules that can intervene militarily or otherwise,' he told the audience of his view of the United States." [Helena Independent Record, [8/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Allowing Iran To Acquire Nuclear Weapons Would Start An Arms Race In The Middle East**

"Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, made a surprise appearance at the weekly community forum, Hometown Helena, and said he didn't like the proposed nuclear agreement negotiated with Iran. [...] There are consequences if the United States withdraws into isolationism, he continued. People have always risen against tyranny because they knew the United States would be there, Zinke said. And when the United States no longer stands, it has a catastrophic effect. Allowing Iran to possess nuclear weapons will start an arms race in the Middle East that will go out of control in a region that is widely unstable, he said. Current estimates are that Israel has 60 nuclear weapons, he said in response to a question on that nation's possession of these weapons. After the session of Hometown Helena ended, Zinke, who is a Navy SEAL veteran, elaborated on his concerns and said, 'If Iran has a nuclear weapon or obtains one, there's no doubt in my mind that Saudi will feel threatened. And when Saudi feels threatened, Turkey -- although we have nuclear devices there -- Turkey will feel a need to have a defense. 'In that neighborhood, in which I have a lot of experience, there is no doubt that if one group has it, then there'll be others. And that's a significant concern.' The concern is not just with

nations who would obtain nuclear weapons but about other groups as well, Zinke said.” [Helena Independent Record, [8/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Estimated Israel Had 60 Nuclear Weapons**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, made a surprise appearance at the weekly community forum, Hometown Helena, and said he didn’t like the proposed nuclear agreement negotiated with Iran. [...] There are consequences if the United States withdraws into isolationism, he continued. People have always risen against tyranny because they knew the United States would be there, Zinke said. And when the United States no longer stands, it has a catastrophic effect. Allowing Iran to possess nuclear weapons will start an arms race in the Middle East that will go out of control in a region that is widely unstable, he said. Current estimates are that Israel has 60 nuclear weapons, he said in response to a question on that nation’s possession of these weapons. After the session of Hometown Helena ended, Zinke, who is a Navy SEAL veteran, elaborated on his concerns and said, ‘If Iran has a nuclear weapon or obtains one, there’s no doubt in my mind that Saudi will feel threatened. And when Saudi feels threatened, Turkey -- although we have nuclear devices there -- Turkey will feel a need to have a defense. ’In that neighborhood, in which I have a lot of experience, there is no doubt that if one group has it, then there’ll be others. And that’s a significant concern.’ The concern is not just with nations who would obtain nuclear weapons but about other groups as well, Zinke said.” [Helena Independent Record, [8/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Iran Has Not Shown Itself To Be A Respectable Nation State. They Are Funding Hezbollah, They Are Funding Hamas And They Have Not Shown That They Are A Responsible Nation State.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, made a surprise appearance at the weekly community forum, Hometown Helena, and said he didn’t like the proposed nuclear agreement negotiated with Iran. [...] ‘When you have extremism, it’s not only nation states but you have surrogates and it is not beyond the realm of possibility or likelihood that the extremists, either through a nation state or surrogate, would have that intention,’ he said. ‘Iran has not shown itself to be a respectable nation state. They are funding Hezbollah, they are funding Hamas and they have not shown that they are a responsible nation state,’ he said.” [Helena Independent Record, [8/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Think The Narrative Of Take The Deal Or Go To War Is A False Narrative. There Are Multiple Options To Include Keeping The Sanctions There, Tightening The Sanctions.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, made a surprise appearance at the weekly community forum, Hometown Helena, and said he didn’t like the proposed nuclear agreement negotiated with Iran. [...] ‘I think the narrative of take the deal or go to war is a false narrative. There are multiple options to include keeping the sanctions there, tightening the sanctions,’ Zinke said. [...] ‘We have to be very, very cautious,’ said Zinke, who plans a trip to Israel to discuss the proposed deal with Iran. ‘Nuclear weapons is serious and sober.’ ‘This is at a juncture, and I’m concerned,’ he added.” [Helena Independent Record, [8/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Was On KGVO Montana Morning And Discussed The Marines Killed In TN, Iranian Nuclear Deal And The Republican Field Of Presidential Candidates.**

[YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [7/17/15](#)] (AUDIO)

### **Zinke On Iran Deal: “I Agree With Israel: This Is A Bad Mistake Of Historic Proportions.”**

“Today the Obama Administration announced a deal had been reached to lift economic sanctions on Iran, the leading state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, and allow the nation to maintain and advance some nuclear capabilities. [...] ‘I agree with Israel: This is a bad mistake of historic proportions. Iran has not proven to be a reliable and trustworthy negotiating partner. Their behavior is not of a responsible nation, as they continue to fund Hezbollah, a terrorist group, in their war against Israel. The verification parameters of this ‘deal’ are not robust enough to ensure Iran plays by the rules.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/14/15](#)]

**Zinke: “The Verification Parameters Of This ‘Deal’ Are Not Robust Enough To Ensure Iran Plays By The Rules.”**

“Today the Obama Administration announced a deal had been reached to lift economic sanctions on Iran, the leading state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, and allow the nation to maintain and advance some nuclear capabilities. [...] ‘I agree with Israel: This is a bad mistake of historic proportions. Iran has not proven to be a reliable and trustworthy negotiating partner. Their behavior is not of a responsible nation, as they continue to fund Hezbollah, a terrorist group, in their war against Israel. The verification parameters of this ‘deal’ are not robust enough to ensure Iran plays by the rules.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/14/15](#)]

**Zinke: “President Obama Handed The Keys Of Iraq To Iranian Militias, Now He Is Giving Them A Legal Pathway To A Nuclear Bomb And Over A \$140 Billion In Economic Relief.”**

“Today the Obama Administration announced a deal had been reached to lift economic sanctions on Iran, the leading state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, and allow the nation to maintain and advance some nuclear capabilities. [...] ‘But this is only the latest in a string of dangerous decisions President Obama has made regarding Iran. President Obama handed the keys of Iraq to Iranian militias, now he is giving them a legal pathway to a nuclear bomb and over a \$140 billion in economic relief. These actions create the perfect storm for the rise of Iran as the regional super power, and this will likely result in a nuclear arms race in the most volatile region in the world.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/14/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Pro-Iran Sympathizers Are Pushing The Notion That If We Do Not Accept This Deal, We Will Go To War. This Is A False Narrative And Fear Mongering.”**

“Today the Obama Administration announced a deal had been reached to lift economic sanctions on Iran, the leading state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, and allow the nation to maintain and advance some nuclear capabilities. [...] ‘Pro-Iran sympathizers are pushing the notion that if we do not accept this deal, we will go to war. This is a false narrative and fear mongering. We and our allies have options, and Congress will review every one of them.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/14/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I Am Not Deterred By President Obama’s Veto Threats; I Will Do Everything I Can In Congress To Block This Deal From Ever Going Forward.”**

“Today the Obama Administration announced a deal had been reached to lift economic sanctions on Iran, the leading state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, and allow the nation to maintain and advance some nuclear capabilities. [...] ‘Iran is not our equal. Iran is the largest state-sponsor of terrorism across the globe, and giving them not only billions of dollars in economic relief, but also a legal pathway to a nuclear weapon, will only bolster their anti-American, anti-Israel activities and aspirations. I have been to war in the Middle East. I have worked beside Israeli Defense Forces, and I have defended our nation on the front lines against radical Islamic terrorists. I know what is at stake. I am not deterred by President Obama’s veto threats; I will do everything I can in Congress to block this deal from ever going forward.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/14/15](#)]

**Zinke Was On KBZK Discussing The Iran Deal.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke, [7/15/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Was On Voices Of Montana And Discussed His Trip To Israel, The Iran Deal And His Forest Reform Legislation.**

[Northern Broadcasting System, [8/17/15](#)] (AUDIO)

**Zinke Was On Newstalk KGVO, Talk Back Where He Discussed Pushing Back On EPA And BLM Regulations, Iran, Opposition To TPA And His Distrust In POTUS.**

[00:00:00 - :00:19:45] [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [5/28/15](#)] (AUDIO)

**Zinke Said If The Iranian Deal “Is Bad We Shouldn’t Take It, We Don’t Have To Take A Bad Deal, We Don’t Have To Have A Path Where Iran Has A Nuclear Weapon.”**

“A House Republican on Saturday said President Obama should consult Congress on the framework of deal limiting Iran’s nuclear capabilities. Rep. Ryan Zinke, (R-Mont.) a member of the Armed Services Committee, said if the deal brokered this week ‘is bad, we shouldn’t take it, we don’t have to take a bad deal, we don’t have to have a path where Iran has a nuclear weapon.’ [The Hill, [4/5/15](#)]

**Zinke Said Deal Must Ensure “No Enrichment Of Uranium, No Facilities That Could Be Used To Have A Nuclear Device And Robust Inspections.”**

“The former Navy SEAL said Iran has vowed in the past to destroy the United States and can’t be trusted. ‘This is Iran, one of the funders of worldwide terrorism,’ he said on CNN. ‘The negotiations should be clear, no legal pathway for Iran to have a nuclear device.’ The deal must also ensure there is ‘no enrichment of uranium, no facilities that could be used to have a nuclear device and robust inspections,’ Zinke said.” [The Hill, [4/5/15](#)]

**Zinke Argued Iranian Sanctions Worked In The Past, Said They Were Driving Force In Bringing Iran To The Negotiating Table**

“Zinke said President Obama should consult with Congress about the details of any agreement with Tehran. ‘So it’s not a question of war, the question is what can we do, what do we have the capacity to do?’ he said. He argued U.S. sanctions have worked in the past and were a driving force in bringing Tehran to the negotiating table.” [The Hill, [4/5/15](#)]

**Zinke Opposed Nuclear Deal With Iran, Said He Doubted “Iran Is Going To Adhere To The Terms And Conditions Of A Nuclear Deal.”**

“Congressman Zinke, who served in Iraq as a Navy SEAL commander, accused the Obama administration of appeasement towards Iran. ‘I highly doubt Iran is going to adhere to the terms and conditions of a nuclear deal,’ Rep. Zinke told Breitbart News. ‘The facts are very clear that Iran has supported and funded terrorist activities globally against the United States and our allies, and for some reason this administration insists somehow we can take them at their word — that Iran has changed as far as their behavior goes,’ he added. ‘You don’t have to look very far. The facts on the ground are, that’s not in fact the case. Iran continues its support and funding of terrorist activities.’ [Breitbart, [4/2/15](#)]

**Zinke Supported Sanctions Against Iran, Said The Administration Changed Policy From “Iran Should Not Have A Nuclear Weapon To Iran Will Not Have A Nuclear Weapon In The Short Term.”**

“Rep. Zinke argued that the U.S. should continue to enforce sanctions against Iran until the Islamic Republic completely dismantles and ends its pursuit of a nuclear weapon. ‘What this administration has done now is move from the position that Iran should not have a nuclear weapon to Iran will not have a nuclear weapon in the short term,’ noted Zinke. ‘That’s a significant change of policy.’ [Breitbart, [4/2/15](#)]

**Zinke Opposed Legal Pathway For Iran To Build Nuclear Weapons, Said The Program Should Be Completely Dismantled**

“My position has remained steadfast,’ he added. ‘There can be no legal pathway for Iran to continue efforts building capability in pursuit of a nuclear weapon.’ The Montana Republican believes Iran’s nuclear program should be completely dismantled.” [Breitbart, [4/2/15](#)]

**Zinke Said Deal “Must Be [...] Iran Does Not Have The Legal Pathway For A Nuclear Deal” And Sanctions Should Only Be Lifted When It Could Be Verified Iran Was No Longer Able To Pursue Nuclear Weapon**

“I’ve never heard the argument of why a peaceful nuclear capability would be a goal of Iran,’ declared Rep. Zinke, adding, ‘I think the argument that Iran is somehow going to develop a peaceful nuclear capability is a false narrative. The deal must be, in my judgment, that Iran does not have the legal pathway for a nuclear deal. In return for that, we would lift sanctions under the conditions that we can verify that Iran no longer has the

capability of pursuing a nuclear weapon,' the congressman explained. 'That's what should be on the table and only that on the table.' [Breitbart, [4/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke Said The Iranian Nuclear Deal Was "The Greatest National Security Mistake Of Our Time."**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote in an op-ed: "The Iranian nuclear deal is perhaps the greatest national security mistake of our time and represents a clear and present danger to America and our allies. The idea of legitimizing a nuclear Iran — the leading sponsor of global terrorism who is directly responsible for the killing of at least 500 American troops — is reckless. The United States does not need this deal; Iran needs this deal. As you're reading this, Iran is holding Americans hostage. And earlier this year, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, rallied crowds with chants of 'Death to America.' His words are not political rhetoric; they are reality." [Great Falls Tribune, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Op-Ed: "I Remember The Troops Killed By Iranian Explosives."**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote in an op-ed: "As a former Navy SEAL commander, I remember the troops killed by Iranian explosives. I know firsthand the Iranian nuclear agreement is bad. Here's why:

1. It fails to provide adequate inspection and verification measures, allowing Iran to "self-inspect;"
2. It funnels billions of dollars to Iran, and by admission of national security adviser Susan Rice, will be used to finance terrorism;
3. It fails to dismantle Iran's nuclear facilities; and
4. It removes the sanctions on weapons to allow Iran to procure Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)."

[Great Falls Tribune, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke Opposed The Iranian Nuclear Deal Because It Was "Bad On Verification" And Assumed "Iran Was A Trustworthy Negotiator."**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote in an op-ed: "President Barack Obama and his supporters of appeasement insist this is a diplomatic 'win' and that we face a 'take the deal or go to war' proposition. This claim is patently false. I am the last guy who wants to go to war. No one, especially those who have fought, want to go to war. The truth is the deal is bad. The deal is bad on verification. Although Secretary of State John Kerry insists monitoring is foolproof, experts like former CIA Director General Hayden disagree. This deal assumes Iran is a trustworthy negotiator. We were told the deal would include 'anytime and anywhere' inspections, however it is now up to 24 days, but only if Iran agrees. We now also know that Iran will be allowed to self-inspect certain sites. This is foolish, but not foolproof." [Great Falls Tribune, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke Said The Iranian Nuclear Deal Left Iran's Nuclear Facilities "Intact" And "Bolster[ed] Their Long-Range Capabilities."**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote in an op-ed: "The deal also fails to dismantle Iran's nuclear capability, leaving all known nuclear facilities intact, and it bolsters their long-range capabilities. While the administration refused to include American hostages in the deal, they managed to remove sanctions on conventional weapons and ICBMs. Of the dangers facing our troops around the globe, our military's top general stated that under no circumstances should we give Iran advanced missile systems." [Great Falls Tribune, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke Said The Iranian Nuclear Deal "Radically Depart[ed] From Decades Of Prudent U.S. Foreign Policy Directed At Reducing, Rather Than Increasing, Nuclear Stockpiles And The Number Of Countries Who Possess Them."**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote in an op-ed: "Lastly, the deal is bad in that it radically departs from decades of prudent U.S. foreign policy directed at reducing, rather than increasing, nuclear stockpiles and the number of countries who possess them. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), South Africa, and Ukraine are successful examples of reducing the risk of nuclear warfare. This deal will create a legal pathway for Iran to

possess nuclear weapons, which will trigger a nuclear arms race in a region ripe with instability. Saudi Arabia has already pledged to acquire nuclear weaponry.” [Great Falls Tribune, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke Said The Iranian Nuclear Deal “Create[d] A Legal Pathway For Iran To Possess Nuclear Weapons, Which Will Trigger A Nuclear Arms Race In A Region Ripe With Instability.”**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote in an op-ed: “Lastly, the deal is bad in that it radically departs from decades of prudent U.S. foreign policy directed at reducing, rather than increasing, nuclear stockpiles and the number of countries who possess them. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), South Africa, and Ukraine are successful examples of reducing the risk of nuclear warfare. This deal will create a legal pathway for Iran to possess nuclear weapons, which will trigger a nuclear arms race in a region ripe with instability. Saudi Arabia has already pledged to acquire nuclear weaponry.” [Great Falls Tribune, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke Supported Holding “Iran Accountable For Its Flagrant Violations And Actions.”**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote in an op-ed: “The right course is to reject this bad deal and hold Iran accountable for its flagrant violations and actions. There are a number of actions the United States can take that do not include war and prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. This deal was conceived in appeasement and those who vote for it care more about the legacy of Obama than they do the security of United States and our allies.” [Great Falls Tribune, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke: “I Have Been To War In The Middle East Where Men And Women Were Injured And Killed By Iranian-Made Weapons.”**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: “Why would the United States hand over a nuclear bomb to a nation that continually violates nuclear inspection laws? To a nation that is the largest state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, a nation that holds Americans hostage, and to a nation that chants ‘Death to America’ while burning our flag? [...] Iran is not our equal. Iran is the largest state-sponsor of terrorism across the globe, and giving it both billions of dollars in economic relief and also a legal pathway to a nuclear weapon will only bolster its anti-American, anti-Israel activities and aspirations. Anyone who believes that money will not go to funding terrorism and anti-American activities is naïve. I have been to war in the Middle East where men and women were injured and killed by Iranian-made weapons. I’ve conducted operations in Central and South America where Iranian influence was emerging in the 1990s and is continuing to grow.” [Breitbart, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/31/15](#)]

**Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke: “I’ve Conducted Operations In Central And South America Where Iranian Influence Was Emerging In The 1990s And Is Continuing To Grow.”**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: “Why would the United States hand over a nuclear bomb to a nation that continually violates nuclear inspection laws? To a nation that is the largest state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, a nation that holds Americans hostage, and to a nation that chants ‘Death to America’ while burning our flag? [...] Iran is not our equal. Iran is the largest state-sponsor of terrorism across the globe, and giving it both billions of dollars in economic relief and also a legal pathway to a nuclear weapon will only bolster its anti-American, anti-Israel activities and aspirations. Anyone who believes that money will not go to funding terrorism and anti-American activities is naïve. I have been to war in the Middle East where men and women were injured and killed by Iranian-made weapons. I’ve conducted operations in Central and South America where Iranian influence was emerging in the 1990s and is continuing to grow.” [Breitbart, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/31/15](#)]

**Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke: “I Have Worked Beside Israeli Defense Forces, And I Have Defended Our Nation On The Front Lines Against Radical Islamic Terrorists. I Have Seen Iranian Made Weapons In Enemy Hands.”**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: “Why would the United States hand over a nuclear bomb to a nation that continually violates nuclear inspection laws? To a nation that is the largest state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, a nation that holds Americans hostage, and to a nation that chants ‘Death to America’ while burning our

flag? [...] Congress has until September 17 to vote on the president's proposal. I have worked beside Israeli Defense Forces, and I have defended our nation on the front lines against radical Islamic terrorists. I have seen Iranian made weapons in enemy hands. I know what is at stake. I am not deterred by President Obama's veto threats; I will do everything I can in Congress to block this deal from ever going forward." [Breitbart, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/31/15](#)]

### **Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke: "I Am Helping Lead The Fight Against This Bad Deal In Congress And Encourage Others To Stand Up For America And Our Allies And Vote No On This Bad Deal."**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: "Why would the United States hand over a nuclear bomb to a nation that continually violates nuclear inspection laws? To a nation that is the largest state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, a nation that holds Americans hostage, and to a nation that chants 'Death to America' while burning our flag? [...] I remain convinced that Iran is not a trustworthy negotiating partner and the verification parameters of this deal are far from robust enough to hold Iran accountable. I commend my Democratic colleagues like U.S. Senators Chuck Schumer and Bob Menendez and Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) for breaking from the President and voting for the American people. I am helping lead the fight against this bad deal in Congress and encourage others to stand up for America and our allies and vote no on this bad deal." [Breitbart, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/31/15](#)]

### **Cosp. & Voted to Prohibit Waiving Sanctions in Nuclear Agreement Until Iran Paid the Terrorism Judgment Owed**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: "Passage of a bill that would prohibit the president from waiving sanctions under the Iran Nuclear Agreement until Iran pays the legal terrorism-related judgment it owes. The president would be required to certify to Congress that the Iranian government has paid all outstanding judgments before Iran's sanctions are lifted or its assets released." The bill passed by a vote of 251-173. [CQ, [10/1/15](#); H.R. 3457, Vote 533, [10/1/15](#); CQ, Accessed [9/17/15](#); H.R. 3457, Co-sponsored 9/16/15, Introduced [9/9/15](#)]

### **Voted For Prohibiting Waiving Iran Sanctions Until Iran Pays Legal Terrorism Related Judgment**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for to "prohibit the president from waiving sanctions under the Iran Nuclear Agreement until Iran pays the legal terrorism-related judgment it owes. The president would be required to certify to Congress that the Iranian government has paid all outstanding judgments before Iran's sanctions are lifted or its assets released." The bill passed, 251-173. [CQ Floor Votes, [10/01/15](#); HR 3457, [Vote #533](#), 10/01/15]

### **Voted Against A Measure Expressing Congressional Approval Of The Iran Nuclear Deal**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against "a measure expressing congressional approval of the Iran nuclear agreement Friday, placing a majority of the chamber on the record against the accord. The measure ... states simply that Congress favors the pact. The bill was likely to fail on the House floor, but in so doing put Democrats on the record in support of the deal." The motion failed 169 to 269. [H.R. 3461, [Vote #493](#), 9/11/15; CQ, [9/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For The Bill To Prevent The President From Reducing Iran's Sanctions Until 2017**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that would suspend the President's authority to reduce, waive, or suspend sanctions on Iran until January 21, 2017. The bill passed, 247 to 186. [HR 3460, [Vote #494](#), 9/11/15; CQ, [9/11/15](#); AP, [9/11/15](#)]

### **Voted for a Resolution Asserting POTUS Did Not Provide Information for Congressional Review of the Iran Nuclear Deal**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a resolution "asserting that the Obama administration did not provide information required for congressional review of the Iran nuclear deal... The measure ... would find that the review period under the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act has not officially started because the president has not transmitted all so-called side deals to Congress. Conservative Republicans ... assert the mandated 60-day

review period cannot legally be said to have begun since Congress has not had physical access to two separate arrangements between the International Atomic Energy Agency and Tehran. Specifically, Republicans are objecting to the absence of a ‘road map’ between Iran and the IAEA that lays out commitments by Tehran to disclose past and present alleged military research with nuclear dimensions.” The bill passed 245 to 186. [H.Res. 411, [Vote #492](#), 9/10/15; CQ, [9/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Consider Finding POTUS Had Not Complied with the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act Of 2015**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the rule that would provide for consideration of H Res 411, a resolution finding that the President has not complied with section 2 of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015; HR 3461, a bill that would suspend until January 21, 2017, the authority of the President to waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of sanctions pursuant to an agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran; and HR 3460, a bill that would approve the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, signed at Vienna on July 14, 2015, relating to the nuclear program of Iran.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 243-186. [CQ, [9/10/15](#); H.Res. 412, Vote 491, [9/10/15](#)]

### **House Republicans Claimed POTUS Did Not Disclose Secret Side Agreements Of The Iran Nuclear Deal**

“Senate Democrats delivered a major victory to President Obama when they blocked a Republican resolution to reject a six-nation nuclear accord with Iran on Thursday, ensuring the landmark deal will take effect without a veto showdown between Congress and the White House. [...] House Republicans tried to derail the deal this week by claiming that the White House had not disclosed secret side agreements of the accord, and, as such, had not given Congress the agreed-upon 60 days for review.” [New York Times, [9/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Provide That POTUS Failed To Comply With The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act Therefore The 60-Day Congressional Review Period Established By That Law Had Not Begun**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for: “The resolution provides that the president has failed to fully comply with the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (PL 114-17) and that the 60-day congressional review period established by that law therefore has not begun.” The resolution was adopted by a vote of 245-186. [CQ, [9/10/15](#), H.Res. 411, Vote 492, [9/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Signed A Letter That Urged POTUS To Take Immediate Action In Releasing The Full Details Of The Secret Side Deals To The Iranian Nuclear Agreement To The U.S. Congress**

“Congressman Mike Pompeo (R-KS) today led a letter signed by 94 members of Congress to President Obama, urging the president to take immediate action in releasing the full details of the secret side deals to the Iranian nuclear agreement to the U.S. Congress for review.” Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Rep. Mike Pompeo, Press Release, [8/4/15](#)]

### **KPAX: “[Zinke Said] The Obama Administration [Did] Not Provided Congress With All Of The Deal’s Documentation, Including An Agreement Between Iran And An International Atomic Inspection Agency.”**

“Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester voted Thursday to help advance President Barack Obama’s nuclear deal with Iran – while acknowledging that he’s heard vocal opposition from many Montanans. [...] Zinke, a former U.S. Navy SEAL who served in the Middle East, has called the deal ‘the greatest national security mistake of our time’ and said it does not dismantle Iran’s nuclear facilities. In an interview Thursday, he said the Obama administration has not provided Congress with all of the deal’s documentation, including an agreement between Iran and an international atomic inspection agency. The House will vote this week against approving the deal, and it should, he said. Lifting sanctions now in place will allow Iran to get conventional missile technology, purchase intercontinental ballistic missiles and possibly upgrade nuclear centrifuges in 13 years, Zinke said. ‘I cannot see how taking this deal is in the best interest of this nation,’ he said. ‘Everyone who votes in support of this is going to be held accountable.’ [KPAX, [9/10/15](#)]

**News Media: “Zinke Said The USA Shouldn’t Give A ‘Clear Runway’ For Iran To Develop Nuclear Weapons ‘Under Any Circumstances.’”**

“Despite the saga over Hillary Clinton’s emails, Donald Trump’s sprint to front-runner status in the Republican presidential race and some interesting pennant races, the news this summer has never drifted far from the nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran. [...] Obama has stated that the JCPOA is historic and it is true. Iran will not admit to any culpability for murdering Americans around the globe, much less pay reparations for them. But during his appearance on Face the State over the weekend, Congressman Ryan Zinke said the USA shouldn’t give a ‘clear runway’ for Iran to develop nuclear weapons ‘under any circumstances.’ [News Media, [9/9/15](#)]

**KPAX: Zinke Supported “Tightening Economic Sanctions Against Iran, Rather Than Putting ‘Every U.S. City At Risk’ If Iran Develops Nuclear Missiles Capable Of Reaching North America.”**

“Debate over the Obama Administration’s nuclear accord with Iran is heating up in Washington, with a total of 41 Democratic senators now saying they will stand with the president over any GOP effort to derail the agreement. However, GOP opposition to the measure remains strong in both the Senate and the House, splitting Montana’s Congressional delegation. [...] ‘I adamantly disagree,’ Zinke said. ‘Iran launched ten thousand missiles through its surrogate Hamas into innocent civilians in Israel. They have about sixty-five thousand missiles in Lebanon. Iran is the leading sponsor of terrorism worldwide. And they’re not going to change. Their leadership tweets ‘death to America and destruction.’ He wrote a book about on it. And regardless of what President Obama says, ‘Well, this is political spin.’ I think you have to take him at his word. It’s not spin. It’s not rhetoric. It’s reality.’ Zinke believes the U.S. should go back and ‘look at the deal’, tightening economic sanctions against Iran, rather than putting ‘every U.S. city at risk’ if Iran develops nuclear missiles capable of reaching North America.” [KPAX, [9/8/15](#)]

**KPAX: “[Zinke Said] Lifting Sanctions [...] Allow Iran To Get Conventional Missile Technology, Purchase Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles And Possibly Upgrade Nuclear Centrifuges In 13 Years.”**

“Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester voted Thursday to help advance President Barack Obama’s nuclear deal with Iran – while acknowledging that he’s heard vocal opposition from many Montanans. [...] Zinke, a former U.S. Navy SEAL who served in the Middle East, has called the deal ‘the greatest national security mistake of our time’ and said it does not dismantle Iran’s nuclear facilities. In an interview Thursday, he said the Obama administration has not provided Congress with all of the deal’s documentation, including an agreement between Iran and an international atomic inspection agency. The House will vote this week against approving the deal, and it should, he said. Lifting sanctions now in place will allow Iran to get conventional missile technology, purchase intercontinental ballistic missiles and possibly upgrade nuclear centrifuges in 13 years, Zinke said. ‘I cannot see how taking this deal is in the best interest of this nation,’ he said. ‘Everyone who votes in support of this is going to be held accountable.’ [KPAX, [9/10/15](#)]

**Zinke “Adamantly Disagree[d]” With Iran Nuclear Deal Because Iran Was The “Leading Sponsor Of Terrorism Worldwide.”**

“Debate over the Obama Administration’s nuclear accord with Iran is heating up in Washington, with a total of 41 Democratic senators now saying they will stand with the president over any GOP effort to derail the agreement. However, GOP opposition to the measure remains strong in both the Senate and the House, splitting Montana’s Congressional delegation. [...] ‘I adamantly disagree,’ Zinke said. ‘Iran launched ten thousand missiles through its surrogate Hamas into innocent civilians in Israel. They have about sixty-five thousand missiles in Lebanon. Iran is the leading sponsor of terrorism worldwide. And they’re not going to change. Their leadership tweets ‘death to America and destruction.’ He wrote a book about on it. And regardless of what President Obama says, ‘Well, this is political spin.’ I think you have to take him at his word. It’s not spin. It’s not rhetoric. It’s reality.’ Zinke believes the U.S. should go back and ‘look at the deal’, tightening economic sanctions against Iran, rather than putting ‘every U.S. city at risk’ if Iran develops nuclear missiles capable of reaching North America.” [KPAX, [9/8/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Iran Launched Ten Thousand Missiles Through Its Surrogate Hamas Into Innocent Civilians In Israel. They Have About Sixty-Five Thousand Missiles In Lebanon.”**

“Debate over the Obama Administration’s nuclear accord with Iran is heating up in Washington, with a total of 41 Democratic senators now saying they will stand with the president over any GOP effort to derail the agreement. However, GOP opposition to the measure remains strong in both the Senate and the House, splitting Montana’s Congressional delegation. [...] ‘I adamantly disagree,’ Zinke said. ‘Iran launched ten thousand missiles through its surrogate Hamas into innocent civilians in Israel. They have about sixty-five thousand missiles in Lebanon. Iran is the leading sponsor of terrorism worldwide. And they’re not going to change. Their leadership tweets ‘death to America and destruction.’ He wrote a book about on it. And regardless of what President Obama says, ‘Well, this is political spin.’ I think you have to take him at his word. It’s not spin. It’s not rhetoric. It’s reality.’ Zinke believes the U.S. should go back and ‘look at the deal’, tightening economic sanctions against Iran, rather than putting ‘every U.S. city at risk’ if Iran develops nuclear missiles capable of reaching North America.” [KPAX, [9/8/15](#)]

**Zinke Said Iranian Leadership Tweeting “Death To America” Was “Reality” And Not “Political Spin.”**

“Debate over the Obama Administration’s nuclear accord with Iran is heating up in Washington, with a total of 41 Democratic senators now saying they will stand with the president over any GOP effort to derail the agreement. However, GOP opposition to the measure remains strong in both the Senate and the House, splitting Montana’s Congressional delegation. [...] ‘I adamantly disagree,’ Zinke said. ‘Iran launched ten thousand missiles through its surrogate Hamas into innocent civilians in Israel. They have about sixty-five thousand missiles in Lebanon. Iran is the leading sponsor of terrorism worldwide. And they’re not going to change. Their leadership tweets ‘death to America and destruction.’ He wrote a book about on it. And regardless of what President Obama says, ‘Well, this is political spin.’ I think you have to take him at his word. It’s not spin. It’s not rhetoric. It’s reality.’ Zinke believes the U.S. should go back and ‘look at the deal’, tightening economic sanctions against Iran, rather than putting ‘every U.S. city at risk’ if Iran develops nuclear missiles capable of reaching North America.” [KPAX, [9/8/15](#)]

**Zinke Said U.S. Was Only Country That Could “Enforce” The Iranian Nuclear Agreement**

“00:07:55 DAVE: Yeah. Good morning. About the Iran deal. Now, I’ve read the Iranians will not renegotiate any part of the agreement with just the United States. Now if Iran’s going to cheat then, and they won’t renegotiate, that doesn’t give us much options. So now I’m curious, what you think about that? 00:08:15 ZINKE: Well, I think that Iran will cheat. And the deal is so bad, and so in favor of Iran that, honestly, if I was Iran I would behoove them to follow it because it’s in their interest to, the county. Because it does have a path way for nuclear weapons. But, but to your point. No matter what, it’s only the US that can enforce violations. Yeah, certainly France can. I mean France could not deliver C130 to Maui with troops without our help. Russia has no forward presence. Russia can’t enforce things within that region. I mean when Russia flexed in Syria, they, they you know, scrambled three of their fleet. Which was three of the ships of their fleet, and after it all they had almost floating. The United States, our military is the strongest in the world, the strongest it’s ever been, and without US leadership, there’s no one else that can enforce it. So, do I think that the US is the big dog in the room? Absolutely, and we should remain so. And I think that the US, sometimes we have to do what’s in our best interest. And that is unilateral if necessary because that is I think a part of our national security that we should never, we should never loose. And sometimes we have to have the ability to go it alone.” [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [7/31/15](#)] (AUDIO)

**Zinke: “The One Thing That Keeps Me Awake At Night Is Not The Economy But Iran.”**

“United States defense forces are endangered because the Defense Department bureaucracy is expanding and the number of active duty troops is on the decline. That was the warning from U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont ., who spoke to the Montana American Legion convention at HRDC in Havre on Sunday morning. Representatives from legion posts throughout Montana were at the annual meeting. ‘Admirals and bureaucrats don’t win wars,’ Zinke told the veterans. Zinke’s speech followed appearances by two other

members of the Montana congressional delegation Friday. Democratic Sen. Jon Tester and Republican Sen. Steve Daines also spoke to the veterans. Zinke spoke at length about the problem in the Middle East, expressing fear about the prospects of Iran getting nuclear weapons. 'The one thing that keeps me awake at night is not the economy but Iran.' He fears that Iranians want to create the Persian empire of old with control over much of the Middle East. If Iran gets a nuclear weapon, he warned, it will start a nuclear arms race, Saudis and other Arab regimes will feel they will also have to become nuclear powers." [Havre Daily News, [6/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Feared Iran Wanted To Create A Persian Empire That Controlled The Middle East**

"United States defense forces are endangered because the Defense Department bureaucracy is expanding and the number of active duty troops is on the decline. That was the warning from U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., who spoke to the Montana American Legion convention at HRDC in Havre on Sunday morning. Representatives from legion posts throughout Montana were at the annual meeting. 'Admirals and bureaucrats don't win wars,' Zinke told the veterans. Zinke's speech followed appearances by two other members of the Montana congressional delegation Friday. Democratic Sen. Jon Tester and Republican Sen. Steve Daines also spoke to the veterans. Zinke spoke at length about the problem in the Middle East, expressing fear about the prospects of Iran getting nuclear weapons. 'The one thing that keeps me awake at night is not the economy but Iran.' He fears that Iranians want to create the Persian empire of old with control over much of the Middle East. If Iran gets a nuclear weapon, he warned, it will start a nuclear arms race, Saudis and other Arab regimes will feel they will also have to become nuclear powers." [Havre Daily News, [6/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke On Iran Nuclear Negotiations: "No Deal Unless It Goes Through Congress."**

When asked what Congress can do to stop the nuclear negotiations with Iran Zinke said, "There is no deal unless it goes through Congress. What we are talking about is almost a Nuclear Arms Treaty and it should go through Congress. Congress has that authority and I think the votes are there to override a veto if necessary. But we shouldn't be doing this in secrecy." [Fox News, Justice with Judge Jeanine, [3/9/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Said He Thought "The President Should By Constitution Consult Congress" On Iran Deal**

SMERCONISH: "Congressman Zinke, the president said this week that any critic of the deal and, clearly, you're in that category needs to answer the question of why a verifiable deal is worse as an option than the risk of another war in the Middle East. Go ahead and respond to the president." ZINKE: "Well, I think it's a false narrative. One is the devil is in the details. You know, clearly, there's celebration in the streets of Iran. There is very somber in Israel, and we don't know the details of the framework are here. So, I think the president should by Constitution consult Congress, we should look at the details and make, assure that this is not a legal pathway for Iran to have a nuclear weapon. But it's a false narrative saying that sanctions didn't work. Sanctions were to the point that's why Iran came to the table." [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [4/4/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Said The Iran Nuclear Agreement Legitimized "The Nuclear Capabilities Of Iran."**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote: 'The Iranian nuclear deal is perhaps the greatest national security mistake of our time and represents a clear and present danger to America and our allies. The idea of legitimizing the nuclear capabilities of Iran -- the leading sponsor of global terrorism who is directly responsible for the killing of thousands of Americans -- is reckless. The United States does not need this deal; Iran needs this deal. As you're reading this, Iran is holding Americans hostage. Any deal crafted with Iran should have been built on the cornerstone that we would get our people back. And earlier this year, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, rallied crowds with chants of 'Death to America,' and called for the annihilation of Israel. His words are not political rhetoric; they are reality.' [Montana Standard, Zinke Op-Ed, [9/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke On Iran Nuclear Deal: "America Doesn't Need This Deal; Iran Needs This Deal. The Narrative That If We Don't Take The Deal, We Go To War Is False And Fear Mongering."**

"Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) told Breitbart News on Friday that he firmly rejects the nuclear accord with Iran, pointing out that proponents of the deal are engaging in character assassination and bully tactics. 'America

doesn't need this deal; Iran needs this deal. The narrative that if we don't take the deal, we go to war is false and fear mongering,' the Montana at-large congressional representative said." [Breitbart, [8/14/15](#)]

**Zinke Of Iran Nuclear Deal: "This Deal Allows For Iran To Have A Nuclear Weapon, And A Nuclear Iran Will Put Israel At Risk, Put Montana At Risk, And Make The World A More Dangerous Place, Period."**

"Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) told Breitbart News on Friday that he firmly rejects the nuclear accord with Iran, pointing out that proponents of the deal are engaging in character assassination and bully tactics. [...] Rep. Zinke is in Israel this week, where he has met with prominent leaders in the country and discussed the Iranian deal. 'This week, I met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Reuven Rivlin, and retired Israeli Defense Forces Commander General Yadin about the nuclear deal, and we all agree the deal must be stopped,' he said. From a security perspective, this deal is bad at the international, national, and local level, the Congressman added. 'This deal allows for Iran to have a nuclear weapon, and a nuclear Iran will put Israel at risk, put Montana at risk, and make the world a more dangerous place, period,' Zinke concluded." [Breitbart, [8/14/15](#)]

**Zinke Said The Iran Deal Would "Promote An Arms Race" And Would Do Nothing To Dismantle Iran's Nuclear Capability**

"It took nearly two years of talks, but negotiators emerged from closed-door discussions in Austria Tuesday morning to announce they have reached a deal to curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for relief from economic sanctions. So far, the deal has been met with a less than enthusiastic response from Montana's congressional delegation. Republicans Steve Daines and Ryan Zinke both opposed, while senior Senator Jon Tester gives it a qualified 'thumbs up.' Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke spoke with MTN Tuesday and says nothing in the deal will dismantle Iran's nuclear capability. 'I think having Iran with a nuclear capability would promote an arms race. Certainly, look who's opposing it,' Zinke said. 'Those countries that are at greatest risk, Israel and our allies in the region, all view the document as I do, as unacceptable as written. But again, we'll look at our options as Congress.'" [KBZK, [7/15/15](#)]

**Zinke Said Iran's Nuclear Weapon Acquisition Was More Frightening Than The U.S. Economy**

"Ryan Zinke forecast 'tough waters' for the nation's next year and a half at a town hall talk in Bigfork Tuesday night. [...] Zinke attacked international policy, marking Iran's nuclear weapons as more frightening than the U.S.'s economy or debts. He said current negotiations would allow the country to keep current nuclear facilities, a move that would lead to nuclear weapons in Egypt, United Arab Emirates and other Middle East countries." [Flathead News Group, [7/8/15](#)]

**Zinke Said The Only Reason Iran Was Seeking Nuclear Power Was "To Generate Enough Material To Make A nuclear Weapon."**

Zinke said, "You know, wasn't that long ago when remember the hostage taking, remember Beirut, remember Africa, remember Iraq in the war. You have embedded troops right now, Iranian troops in the territory of Iraq. So, you know, I don't think it's a good idea, it's not in our best interest given this state is also oil rich and has gas, they don't need a nuclear capability. I think the only reason why they have they are approaching a nuclear capability as far as power goes is to generate enough material to make a nuclear weapon." [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [4/4/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke: "To Give Iran A Legal Pathway To A Nuclear Weapon Will Guarantee A Nuclear Arms Race In One Of The Most Unstable Region On The Planet."**

"Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke joined CNN's Erin Burnett on Sunday to discuss the deteriorating situation in Yemen and the Obama Administration's ongoing nuclear negotiations with Iran. 'If this Administration defines success as Yemen, I don't know what failure would be,' said Rep Zinke. 'Look at expanding Iranian influence... Iran is supporting Syria, supporting Yemeni rebels; they support terrorism across the globe. To give

Iran a legal pathway to a nuclear weapon will guarantee a nuclear arms race in one of the most unstable region on the planet.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/30/15](#)]

**Zinke Said An American City Would Be “Absolutely Destroyed” If Iran Built A Nuclear Weapon, Said America Could Avoid That Fate Without going To War By Imposing Sanctions To “[Make] Sure They Can’t Sell Their Oil.”**

“American history teacher Brian Fox’s seventh graders were not afraid to ask tough questions of U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., during a video chat session Thursday afternoon. [...] Zinke also addressed a question from Trinity Ceasar asking if he agreed with recent U.S. negotiations with Iran. ‘I think to entertain Iran and a nuclear weapon — one of our cities, New York, Washington [D.C.], Chicago or L.A. will be absolutely destroyed,’ Zinke said before continuing with details of negotiations. ‘I don’t think we have to go to war. I think we can do it with sanctions and making sure they can’t sell their oil,’ Zinke said.” [Daily Inter Lake, [5/1/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I Don’t Want To See A Legal Pathway For Iran To Have A Nuclear Weapon.”**

(01:30) When asked about the dangers threatening America Zinke said, “Iran is a clear and present danger, I don’t want to see a legal pathway for Iran to have a nuclear weapon I think that will have consequences on our soil.” [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [3/13/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Compared Giving Iran A Pathway To Nuclear Weapons To 9/11, Said, “They Will Bring A Nuclear Weapon Into This Country. There Is No Doubt In My Mind.”**

“If terrorist organizations are willing to fly jets into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing almost 3,000 people, ‘they will bring a nuclear weapon into this country. There is no doubt in my mind,’ Zinke said.” [Billings Gazette, [3/13/15](#)]

**Zinke: “There Is Not A Snowball’s Chance In Hell That We’re Going To Let Iran Have A Nuclear Weapon.”**

“Linking the issue with the ongoing talks between the Obama administration and Iran to reach a deal on nuclear weapons, he said that if the president attempts to establish a legal pathway for Iran to obtain nuclear weapons, Congress will step in to prevent the deal from going through. ‘There is not a snowball’s chance in hell that we’re going to let Iran have a nuclear weapon,’ he said. ‘They will stop at nothing to destroy us. And believe me, if they bring a commercial jet into our towers and kill 3,000 innocent civilians, if they had access to a nuclear weapon, they would do the same.’ [Daily Inter Lake, [4/2/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted to Urge Iran to Immediately Release U.S. Citizens Held Captive in Iran**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Royce, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and pass a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran should immediately release U.S. citizens Jason Rezaian, Amir Hekmati and Saeed Abedini and provide all known information on the whereabouts of Robert Levinson.” The motion was agreed to 391-0. [CQ, [6/15/15](#); H.Res. 233, Vote 364, [6/15/15](#)]

**Zinke Claimed Iran Had A Presence In Latin America When He Visited Quito, Ecuador**

“The rapidly growing number of Shiite cultural centers in Latin America have provided the Islamic Republic of Iran with a means to expand its covert recruitment operations throughout the western hemisphere, leading military officials and experts to provide Breitbart News with statements that directly contradict the Obama administration’s narrative that Iran’s influence in the region is ‘waning.’ [...] Ryan Zinke, a member of the House Armed Services, said that Iran’s presence was evident when he visited Quito, Ecuador. The congressman described it as a place where anti-American sentiment is strong and jihadist figures appear next to Latin American heroes.” [Breitbart News, [5/27/15](#)]

### **Said He was “Convinced” the U.S. Gave Iran a Nuclear Weapon Due to Inaction**

In January 2014, speaking at Hometown Helena, Zinke said he was “convinced” that “we just gave” Iran a nuclear weapon by not stopping their enrichment. Zinke said, “Iran is flexing their muscle. And we just gave, I am convinced, Iran a nuclear weapon. We did nothing to slow down and stop the enrichment. And that is serious.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

## **IRAQ**

### **Zinke Claimed POTUS Froze Iraqi Refugees From Coming To The U.S. In 2011**

In November 2015, Zinke tweeted: “Freezing refugee processing in the wake of the Paris attack is prudent. Obama did it in 2011 for Iraqi refugees, why does he refuse to now?” [Twitter, @RyanZinke, [11/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Attack On Camp Liberty In Iraq Was “Carried Out In Cooperation With The Iranian Government.”**

In October 2015, Zinke posted: “The attack on Camp Liberty near Baghdad, Iraq, which was reportedly carried out in cooperation with the Iranian government, represents the greater threat that Iran poses to the United States and her allies. Terrorist attacks like these are too common and as a global community we must stand together to defeat radical Islamic terrorism. The Iraqi government must step up its efforts to protect civilians in face of intensifying hostilities. Lola and I are praying for the families of the fallen and hope for a quick and full recovery of all the wounded.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [10/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against A Resolution Directing The President To Withdraw Troops From Iraq And Syria**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against the: “adoption of the concurrent resolution (H Con Res 55) that would direct the president to withdraw U.S. forces deployed to Iraq in support of operations against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, other than armed forces required to protect U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel within 30 days of enactment.” The resolution failed 139-288. [CQ, [6/18/15](#); H. Con. Res. 55, Vote 370, [6/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said POTUS Announcement of 450 Troops to Iraq “Won’t Make A Difference” Until “We Change The Policy.”**

BLITZER: “You served in Iraq. You served in Fallujah, Ramadi. You know the territory well. Is this, first of all, from your perspective mission creep?” ZINKE: “Well, it is a freefall. And it won’t make a difference putting more troops in unless we change the policy. Air operations alone is not effective. It will not be effective. We don’t have the intelligence on the ground. We are using Facebook in some type cases to target. And what’s the objective? What are we going to do in Syria? And how is it we are going to look at the growing influence of Iran? Before we put troops on the ground, more troops on the ground, we need to change our policy. This president has to recognize the path we are on has failed. What are we going to do different? Because putting more troops alone in won’t make a difference unless we change our policy.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “We Are To The Point Iraq Is Separating Before Our Eyes And At This Point I Am Not Convinced That Even A Brigade Of American Troops Would Have An Effect Against That Group.”**

“Montana Republican Congressman Ryan Zinke has appeared one several cable news networks discussing ‘ISIS’ and Syria. The congressman has been lending his expertise and take on the White House’s defense strategy against ‘ISIS’. Last weekend, the group successfully took over Ramadi in Iraq which Zinke refers to as a major set-back. Zinke says the Obama administration needs to resort to other tactics besides air operations because it is too easy for the targets to get up and move. With all the setbacks, says this will be an enormous problem moving forward for the president and even future presidents. ‘We are to the point Iraq is separating before our eyes and at this point I am not convinced that even a brigade of American troops would have an effect against that group,’ said Zinke. Zinke served as a United States Navy Seal for 23 years before retiring as a commander in 2008. Zinke is currently serving his freshman term in congress.” [KTMF, [5/22/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Our Policy Of Doing It From Afar, Especially In The Territory Of Iraq By Air Operations Alone Is Not Working.”**

KEILAR: “OK. So, Congressman Schiff saying there, Congressman Zinke, that this doesn’t signal perhaps a whole new era in how to approach ISIS in Syria, in Iraq. How do you see it, as a former SEAL Team -- commander at SEAL Team Six?” REP. RYAN ZINKE (R), MONTANA: “Well, first of all, bravo, zuto (ph) Delta. They are outstanding individuals. And this was a great operation. This is not the first time that we have been in Syria and likely not the last time we will be there. It doesn’t change the overall background. We have no plan in Syria what to do overall. You have Ramadi on fire. You have -- in the eastern part of Iraq, you have Iranian forces, senior military leadership. I am not sure how we are ever going to remove them from the territory of Iraq. And this is going to be an enormous problem for the president, as well as the next president, what to do in Iraq. Our policy of doing it from afar, especially in the territory of Iraq by air operations alone is not working. It won’t work. The Kurds are isolated and the Sunnis now seem disenfranchised.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [5/17/15](#); YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke, [5/17/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke: “You Look At The Sunnis, What Is Happening In Ramadi, Fallujah, And The Anbar Province Is On Fire Because They Feel Disenchanted, Disenfranchised From The Centralized Government.”**

SCHIFF: “So, I understand the frustration with how long this is taking and the setbacks in Ramadi, which are real and serious. At the same time, we don’t want to get sucked in, in a way that we take ownership of this whole crisis.” EILAR: “What are the risks of that, Congressman Zinke?” ZINKE: “Well, there is always risk. And time will tell whether this specific operation yields the type of sensitive information that warranted. But I think you need to look at what we have in place, the people, the enormous commitment of Delta Force, SEAL Team Six, and all the services. And these are no-go criteria. They look at it. They judge whether they can successfully enter, given the enormity and the complexity of the operation. And so I trust in our senior military commanders. If they say they can do it, then I will stand by -- they are going to do it. But this is a war. And it’s important to look at the intelligence network. If you find a node that you can penetrate, that you can eliminate, and draw more information for future operations, I think it’s prudent to do. But we face a very difficult challenge in Iraq and Syria. Again, but it doesn’t -- it’s not going to change -- this particular operation, it’s not going to change the background. The background is, we need a plan in Syria. Are we going to -- what about Assad? Are we going to let him stay or go? And what is our strategy going forward? And what about Iran? And now you have Iran in a territory of Iraq, and to a degree, that has heightened the sensitivity of the Sunnis. You look at the Sunnis, what is happening in Ramadi, Fallujah, and the Anbar province is on fire because they feel disenchanted, disenfranchised from the centralized government. That is an issue that you can’t overlook.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [5/17/15](#); YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke, [5/17/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Said He Opposed The 2003 Decision To Invade Iraq, Drawing Silence From The Crowd At CPAC**

“At this year’s CPAC conference, Sen. Tom Cotton got the biggest applause for this line: ‘Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, and Joe Biden made the right decision to support George Bush in the Iraq war.’ About ten seconds later, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT), who like Cotton is an Iraq vet, denounced the 2003 decision to invade. The crowd was silent.” [Vox, [2/28/15](#)]

**ISRAEL**

**Zinke Said The Administration Crafted “A Bad Deal With A Nuclear Iran” & He Was Travelling To Israel**

In August 2015, Zinke posted on Facebook: “Secretary Kerry and President Obama have crafted a bad deal with a nuclear Iran. Next week, I’m traveling to Israel to talk to our friend and closest ally about the implications this deal will have in the region. Iran has proven they are not a trustworthy negotiating partner and they continue to be the world’s largest sponsor of terrorism. To say we need to take the deal or go to war is simply a false narrative and fear mongering. I’m ready to do everything in my power to stop this deal from ever taking hold.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [8/5/15](#)]

## **Zinke “Maintained” His Opposition To The Iran Nuclear Deal After Meeting With Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu And Retired Israeli Defense Forces Commander General Yadlin In Israel**

In August 2015, Zinke tweeted: “This week in Israel I met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and retired Israeli Defense Forces Commander General Yadlin and discussed our options in fighting the president’s bad deal with Iran. I maintain my opposition to this bad deal, and will continue to lead my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to prevent it from ever going forward.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [8/13/15](#)]

## **LATIN AMERICA**

### **Zinke Voted For A Resolution Expressing Support For Press Freedom In Latin American And Caribbean Countries**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Royce, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution that would express support for press freedom in Latin American and Caribbean countries. The resolution would urge countries to condemn violations of press freedoms and would call upon the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist the media in closed societies, when appropriate, to promote an open and free press.” The motion was agreed to 399-2. [CQ, [12/15/15](#); H.Res. 694, Vote 694, [12/15/15](#)]

## **LIBYA**

### **Voted For Extending Select Committee Investigation Of Benghazi**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for a House Rules package that extended the House select committee investigation into the 2012 attacks on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi. The resolution passed, 234-172. [H Res 5, [Vote #6](#), 1/06/15]

### **Extension Set Not Limit On Budget Or Time Frame**

“Five Democrats on the select committee lamented the reauthorization, which set no limit on the committee’s budget or time frame, which means it could last well into the presidential election year.” [New York Times, [1/06/15](#)]

### **Investigation Estimated To Cost \$1.5 Million In 2014**

“The House is on track to spend around \$1.5 million this year on the Republican-created special committee to further investigate the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, according to congressional spending reports.” [USA Today, [12/03/14](#)]

### **Previous House Investigations Into Benghazi Found No Wrongdoing**

“Democrats call the committee a waste of time and money. No questions about the attack are left to answer, they say, particularly after a new House Intelligence Committee report found no wrongdoing by government agencies.” [USA Today, [12/03/14](#)]

### **Zinke Said Benghazi Sent A Message That “If You’re Going To Attack Us Anywhere In The World, For Seven Hours-Plus, We Can’t Respond. That’s Not An Appropriate Message”**

“What do you think about the Benghazi investigation?” Zinke said, ‘I think we deserve the truth. There’s a lot of reasons the ambassador chose not to have a military security force around him. I understand putting troops on the ground may have been a bridge too far that quickly, but we certainly had the assets available to make some show of force, and we did not. Seven hours is a long, long time. What that message tells me is that if you’re going to attack us anywhere in the world, for seven hours-plus, we can’t respond. That’s not an appropriate message.’ [New York Times, [3/23/15](#)]

### **Voted For A Motion To Continue The Benghazi Select Committee**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for a motion to table the ruling of the Chair and continue the Select Committee on Benghazi, even after Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy admitted it was a partisan tactic. The motion failed, 240-183. [Motion, [Vote #536](#), 10/07/15; Rep. Louise Slaughter, Press Release, [10/07/15](#); Congressional Record, [10/07/15](#)]

### **Zinke Bill To Award The Congressional Gold Medal To The Victims Of The Benghazi Attack**

In May 2015, Zinke introduced “a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to each of Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.” [CQ, Accessed [5/22/15](#); H.R. 2567, Sponsored 5/21/15, Introduced [5/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Introduce Legislation To Give Congressional Gold Medals To The Victims Of The September 2012 Terrorist Attack In Benghazi**

“Last night on ‘On the Record’ with Greta Van Susteren, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke announced new legislation to bestow Congressional Gold Medals to the four fallen heroes of the September 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi. U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith and two retired U.S. Navy SEALs working as CIA security contractors, Tyrone S. Woods and Glen Doherty, were killed in the attack. During his 23-year tenure with the U.S. Navy SEALs, Zinke led the BUDS (Basic Underwater Demolition/SEALs) training where Woods was under his command and was a friend to Woods and Doherty. ‘On September 11, 2012 America lost four patriots, and in the Navy SEALs we lost two brothers. This tribute is long overdue,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘Honoring Ambassador Stevens, Sean Smith, Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods with Congressional Gold Medals should not be about politics; it’s about paying respect and homage to American patriots who served our nation honorably in some of our darkest hours. I am grateful for their service to our nation and will work with Senator Markey to build a large and bipartisan base of support for this bill.’ [Office of Rep Zinke, Press Release, [5/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Talked With Greta Van Susteren About Legislation He Introduced To Honor The Victims That Died In Benghazi.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke, [5/18/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Told *Breitbart News* Legislation To Give Congressional Gold Medals To The Victims Of Benghazi Was Explicitly Non-Political And Was About Honoring The Fallen**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) has introduced legislation aimed at awarding Congressional Gold Medals to the fallen heroes from the Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. Zinke, a former Commander in the Navy SEALs, personally knew the two ex-Navy SEALs Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty who died in the terrorist attack. [...] In addition to that appearance on Fox, Zinke told Breitbart News that this effort is explicitly non-political and is about honoring the fallen patriots. ‘I have a lot of criticism for the Administration’s handling of Benghazi, but to me this is not about politics,’ Zinke said. ‘Benghazi was personal. I lost friends, brothers, and America lost dedicated patriots. I want to make this honor about the four American heroes who lost their lives defending our embassy.’ [Breitbart News, [5/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Have A Lot Of Criticism For The Administration’s Handling Of Benghazi, But To Me This Is Not About Politics.”**

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### **Zinke Claimed To Know Victims Of The Benghazi Attack, Said Woods Was Under His Command**

“Retired Navy SEAL and Montana Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke announced new legislation Monday evening to bestow Congressional Gold Medals to the four Americans killed in the September 2012 Benghazi attack. [...] Woods was under Zinke’s command, during his 23-year career with the Navy SEALs. He also knew Doherty, as well.” [The Hill, [5/19/15](#)]

## **NATO**

### **Zinke Cosponsored A Resolution To Urge NATO Member Countries To Meet Or Exceed The Two Percent Gross Domestic Product Commitment To Spending On Defense**

In October 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A resolution urging North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member countries to meet or exceed the two percent gross domestic product commitment to spending on defense.” [CQ, Accessed [10/8/15](#); H. Res 469, Co-sponsored 10/8/15, Introduced [10/8/15](#)]

## **NORTH KOREA**

### **Zinke Missed Vote to Levy Mandatory Sanctions on Individuals Who Enable North Korea**

In February 2016, Zinke missed vote for a: “Royce, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would levy mandatory sanctions on certain individuals including those who enable North Korea’s censorship efforts or human rights abuses, engage in money laundering, narcotics trafficking or cybersecurity attacks for the North Korean government, or sell certain industrial commodities such as coal or steel to North Korea. It also would provide for discretionary sanctions against entities found to have violated various United Nations resolutions regarding North Korea. It would call for the Treasury secretary to block North Korean banks from access to the U.S. financial system if North Korea is determined to be a ‘primary money-laundering concern.’” The motion was agreed to by a 408-2 vote. [CQ, [2/12/16](#); H.R. 757, Vote 82, [2/12/16](#)]

*NOTE: Zinke appeared to miss votes to attend his son’s state wrestling tournament.*

## **PAKISTAN**

### **Voted Against Prohibiting Secretary Of Defense From Waiving Restrictions On Aid For Pakistan**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would disallow “the secretary of Defense, in consultation with the secretary of State, to waive certain restrictions on aid to Pakistan by certifying in writing to congressional defense committees that it is in national security interest to do so.” The amendment failed, 114-318. [H.R. 2685, [Vote #344](#), 6/10/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Designate Dr. Shail Afridi An “International Hero” And To Call On The Pakistani Government To Release Him From Prison Immediately**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Rohrabacher, R-Calif., amendment that would state that it is the sense of Congress that ‘Dr. Shakil Afridi is an international hero and that the Government of Pakistan should release him

immediately from prison.” The amendment passed 413-1. [CQ, [5/15/15](#); Amdt. No. 23 to H.R. 1735, Vote 233, [5/15/15](#)]

## RUSSIA

### Zinke Said He Had a Feeling the Russian Jetliner that Crashed In Egypt Was Brought Down By Islamic State (ISIS) Terrorists

“Saying he has a gut feeling the Russian jetliner that crashed in Egypt on Saturday was brought down by Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists, Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke tells Newsmax TV the crash is a reminder of how real such threats are. ‘My gut tells me that’s correct. It’s not the first time Russia’s been hit by a terrorist threat,’ Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, said Thursday on ‘Newsmax Now.’ There also are holes in America’s system, he said. ‘We had the TSA reports recently. ... We’re not doing as thorough of a job as we need to.’ [Newsmax Media, [11/6/15](#)]

**Newsmax: Headline: “Rep. Zinke: ‘Gut’ Says Russian Jet Bombed By Terrorists.”** [Newsmax Media, [11/6/15](#)]

### Zinke Voted to Condemn The Russian Government For Interfering With Elections In Ukraine

In October 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Royce, R-Ca., motion to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution that would state that the House of Representatives supports the right of the Ukrainian people to freely elect their government and determine their future and condemns attempts by outside forces, specifically the Russian government, to interfere with elections in Ukraine. The resolution also would urge the administration to expedite assistance to Ukraine for the facilitation of political, economic and social overhauls necessary to hold free and fair elections that meet international standards.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 413-4. [CQ, [10/20/15](#); H.Res. 348, Vote 552, [10/20/15](#)]

### Zinke Said “Russia Clearly Agree[d]” With His Assessment That POTUS’ Weakness In The Middle East Created A “Power Vacuum”

In September 2015, Zinke said: “President Obama’s weakness on the global stage has created a power vacuum. I have said all along that vacuum will be filled by our competitors or adversaries. Russia clearly agrees.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [9/29/15](#)]

### Zinke: “I Think It’s About Time Obama Stopped Bowing to Putin”



Ryan Zinke @RyanZinke · 11 Oct 2015

I stopped by Kremlin (MT) today. I think it's about time Obama stopped bowing to Putin #LeadFromTheFront #tcot #usa



### **Zinke Said The United States Should Export Liquid Natural Gas In Order To Deter Russia's Aggression**

In July 2015, Zinke was interviewed on Fox's "Sunday Morning Futures." "BARTIROMO: So what do you think the U.S. should be doing at this point? How do you handle this growing number of countries sort of skeptical of America at a minimum? ZINKE: Well, in the case of Russia, for instance, I think we should look at energy independence. I think we should look at hitting Russia with the free market, export our liquid natural gas. Certainly that would check, I think, Russia's ability to be as aggressive. China, forward engagement, forward presence; our Navy needs to be deployed forward. And in the Middle East, we need a policy what to do in Syria. We need an adequate check on Iran. And I think the only thing that keeps me up at night really is Iran having a nuclear weapon. And under no conditions should we allow Iran a legal path for a nuclear weapon. I think that would be a disaster in the Middle East. We would have an arms race. And unfortunately I think the probability of having a nuclear weapon coming in the United States through a surrogate increases." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [7/5/15](#)]

### **Voted For Prohibiting Funding For START Treaty Until Russia Withdraws From Ukraine**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that would "bar funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for the Defense Department in fiscal 2016 from being used to implement the New START treaty until the president certifies that Russia's armed forces are 'no longer illegally occupying Ukrainian territory,' as well as certain other certifications." The amendment was adopted, 235 to 182. [H.R. 1735, [Vote #234](#), 5/15/15; CQ Floor Votes, [5/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said "If It's In The Interest Of Our National Security To Cancel It, Then We Should Cancel" Uranium Contracts**

(37:00) In response to an email question, should the federal government cancel uranium contracts with Russia in light of Hilary Clinton scandal Zinke said: "I think we should look, at in detail. You want to make sure the sources are credible it's been brought up and we should run it into the ground. And if it's in the interest of our national security to cancel it, then we should cancel it. But I want to know why and if there was a quid pro quo on it and I think America should know. The truth should reign supreme. If there tom fuller around the edges and it's not in the best interest of America, then yes we should cancel it." [YouTube, Sarah Yovetich, [4/26/15](#)]

## **SYRIA & SYRIAN REFUGEES**

### **OPPOSITION TO ZINKE POLICY**

#### **Zadick Op-Ed: Zinke Chose To "To Politicize The Tragic Terrorist Attacks In France"**

In November 2015, Gary Zadick, refugee and Great Falls resident wrote: "Perhaps most of all, I am thankful for the opportunities, freedoms, and security that the United States of America and the State of Montana have afforded us since my grandparents first came here 100 years ago, fleeing violence in the region currently known as Syria and Lebanon. [...] We all want to keep our communities safe from terrorism. As a proud Montanan and a father, I am no exception. I am disappointed that Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Ryan Zinke have chosen to politicize the tragic terrorist attacks in France by urging Montana to 'resist' the placement of Syrian children and families seeking refuge from the very terrorist networks that attacked Paris. Like many of our ancestors, these families seek nothing more than to escape violence and build a better future for their children." [Billings Gazette, Gary Zadick Op-Ed, [11/27/15](#)]

#### **Missoulian: "[Zinke] Urged Our Nation To Turn Its Back On This Rich Heritage, And On The Plight Of Thousands Of Refugees Who Are Dying Even As We Debate Whether To Accept Them."**

"In the nine days since Paris was hit by Islamic terrorists who killed more than 130 people and wounded hundreds more, a growing number of U.S. governors have vowed to turn away any refugees seeking shelter at their borders. [...] Yet with President Barack Obama's pledge to expedite the entrance of 10,000 Syrian

refugees to the United States, Montana’s Republican leaders – U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, Rep. Ryan Zinke and Attorney General Tim Fox – have urged our nation to turn its back on this rich heritage, and on the plight of thousands of refugees who are dying even as we debate whether to accept them.” [Missoulain, Editorial, [11/22/15](#)]

### **Betsy Mulligan Dague, Director of the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center Said Zinke’s Policy Toward Syrian Refugees Came from a Place Of “Fear.”**

“As she watches congressman Ryan Zinke fight efforts like the one she’s trying to spearhead-- to bring Syrian refugees to safety in Missoula-- Betsy Mulligan Dague, director of the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center, doesn’t feel combative-- she feels compassionate. ‘I understand that there’s fear. I know that there are a lot of people with fears, and these are conversations that we have to have as a community.’ Zinke says that the refugees could pose a security threat. ‘Our action cannot be, as ISIS expands, to simply empty country after country and have the refugees come to the west.’ But Mulligan Dague has a message for government officials like Zinke. ‘Listen to the people that are out here that are wanting to help. You can’t look at the pictures and not want to do something for these people.’ Members of the University of Montana campus community point out that the current refugee crisis is not unlike foundational American history. ‘This country was built on refugees, on immigrants coming to this country. The fear that is happening around people from Syria or people who are Islamic coming to this country is the same kind of fear that immigrants have dealt with for a really long time, and that has proven over and over again to be false. We need to open our arms to these immigrants and they’ll come and make our country a better place,’ says Delyla Wilson of University of Montana Global Affairs.” [KTMF, [9/23/15](#)]

### **Billings Gazette: “[Zinke Was A] Fear-Monger Trying To Capitalize On Distrust Of Foreigners During A Time Of Crisis And Tragedy, As In The Paris Attacks.”**

“Folks like Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke are fear-mongering, trying to capitalize on distrust of foreigners during a time of crisis and tragedy, as in the Paris attacks. Picking on refugees is easy, especially when you’re going after people who have lost everything and have been painted with the same brush as bombers and assassins. It’s easy to shut our borders and rail against these people when they’re not washing up dead on the banks of our oceans or rivers.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [11/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called for a Stop to Refugee Program After Two Arrests**



**Ryan Zinke**

January 8 · 🌐

We knew this was coming and Obama and his allies in the Senate have done nothing to stop it. This week I sent a letter to Mitch McConnell urging him to bring up the SAFE Act in the Senate as soon as they return. We need to stop the refugee program until it can be guaranteed to be secure.



#### **Two refugees arrested on terror-related charges - CNN.com**

Authorities arrest Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan of Houston and Aws Mohammed Younis Al-Jayab of Sacramento. They are Palestinians born in Iraq.

CNN.COM | BY CATHERINE E. SHOICHET, CNN

### **Zinke Claimed Syria Did Not Have Indoor Plumbing & Doubted the Country Had the Ability to Determine Who Was a Terrorist**

“The U.S. House of Representatives today passed the American SAFE Act of 2015, legislation Congressman Ryan Zinke helped author with Rep. Richard Hudson (NC) and House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (TX). The bill passed of 289-137. The American SAFE Act bolsters the refugee screening process to include the FBI and Department of Homeland Security. Zinke originally introduced the legislation on Monday with Hudson and called on House Speaker Paul Ryan to immediately schedule a vote on the bill. After additions to the bill by Chairman McCaul the Speaker scheduled a vote for Thursday, November 19th. [...] ‘And, first and foremost our responsibility is to protect American lives,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘What I want to ensure is as moms deliver their kids to school, that they’re assured that they’re safe. And we need to stop the refugees—pause and make sure our vetting system is accurate and appropriate. In Iraq and Syria, there is no database. In my experience, you’re looking at a country that doesn’t have indoor plumbing. And yet we think that we have a database where we can determine who is a terrorist, who is a terrorist sympathizer? And who is not and who is an innocent victim? Quite frankly, we don’t have the database because a database doesn’t exist. So I think the right path is make sure we have a vetting process that we can identify the threat. And we need to stop. Provide more transparency. And when we do have refugees, we need to ensure those refugees are not terrorists. So thank you. God Bless America, and God Bless the great state of Montana.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke’s American SAFE Act of 2015 Passed the House**

“The U.S. House of Representatives today passed the American SAFE Act of 2015, legislation Congressman Ryan Zinke helped author with Rep. Richard Hudson (NC) and House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (TX). The bill passed of 289-137. The American SAFE Act bolsters the refugee screening process to include the FBI and Department of Homeland Security. Zinke originally introduced the legislation on Monday with Hudson and called on House Speaker Paul Ryan to immediately schedule a vote on the bill. After additions to the bill by Chairman McCaul the Speaker scheduled a vote for Thursday, November 19th. [...] ‘And, first and foremost our responsibility is to protect American lives,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘What I want to ensure is as moms deliver their kids to school, that they’re assured that they’re safe. And we need to stop the refugees—pause and make sure our vetting system is accurate and appropriate. In Iraq and Syria, there is no database. In my experience, you’re looking at a country that doesn’t have indoor plumbing. And yet we think that we have a database where we can determine who is a terrorist, who is a terrorist sympathizer? And who is not and who is an innocent victim? Quite frankly, we don’t have the database because a database doesn’t exist. So I think the right path is make sure we have a vetting process that we can identify the threat. And we need to stop. Provide more transparency. And when we do have refugees, we need to ensure those refugees are not terrorists. So thank you. God Bless America, and God Bless the great state of Montana.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Was Interviewed On Neil Cavuto And Discussed The Americans SAFE Act**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [11/17/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **After 2 Refugees Arrested, Zinke Pushed for Senate Vote on SAFE Act**

In 2016, after two refugees were reportedly arrested for terrorism ties, Zinke and 32 other lawmakers pushed for a Senate vote on the SAFE Act (HR 4038). The lawmakers wrote: “We sincerely applaud your commitment to Speaker Ryan to bring forward H.R. 4038, the American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015 (American SAFE Act)...Since the Paris attacks, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has proven capable of utilizing the chaos of the region to infiltrate the refugee population. While we have the deepest sympathies for those impacted by the conflict in Syria and the surrounding region, we strongly believe that refugees from Syria and Iraq headed to the United States must receive enhanced screening.” [Zinke House press release via States News Service, 1/07/16]

## **Zinke Highlighted His Cosponsorship And House Passage Of The Visa Waiver Improvement And Terrorist Travel Prevention Act Of 2015**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for H.R. 158 The Visa Waiver Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015. Zinke was an cosponsor on the legislation; it passed the House with veto-proof, bipartisan majority (407-19-8) and goes to the Senate with the support of the White House. This legislation addresses the vulnerabilities of the Visa Waiver Program by: Barring nationals of VWP countries who are nationals of or have traveled to Iraq or any country that is a state sponsor of terrorism (currently Syria, Sudan, Iran) or is determined by the Secretary of DHS to pose a terrorist threat from using the VWP Requiring participating countries to provide counterterrorism information and other critical intelligence Requiring participating countries to use e-passports which are more secure and fraud resistant Identifying and allowing for the suspension of high-risk countries, and denying visa waiver program status for those who have traveled to terrorist hotspots, like Iraq and Syria, since 2011 ’Today I voted to strengthen national security and close the deadly loopholes found within our own visa system,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘Today’s vote is about identifying threats and vulnerabilities within our own system, and closing them as soon as possible. The fact that 5,000 E.U. citizens who have travelled to Iraq, Syria and other hotbeds of terror in order to fight with ISIS are able to come to the U.S. so easily is a testament to how desperately we need to update our entire immigration and visa system. This also brings to light the need to revoke passports of U.S. citizens who are fighting alongside ISIS. We know it’s happening, and this Administration is doing nothing to stop it or prevent them from coming back to the states.’ Zinke concluded, ‘I’m happy to see President Obama support the actions taken by the House today, and I urge quick passage in the Senate.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/9/15](#)]

## **Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Clarify The Grounds For Ineligibility For Travel To The United States Regarding Terrorism Risk**

In December 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A bill to clarify the grounds for ineligibility for travel to the United States regarding terrorism risk, to expand the criteria by which a country may be removed from the Visa Waiver Program, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report on strengthening the Electronic System for Travel Authorization to better secure the international borders of the United States and prevent terrorists and instruments of terrorism from entering the United States, and for other purposes.” [CQ, Accessed [12/7/15](#); H.R. 158, Co-sponsored 12/3/15, Introduced [1/6/15](#)]

## **Zinke Voted To Prohibit Refugees from Syria, Iran, Sudan, & Iraq, from Entering the U.S. Unless Interviewed By U.S. & Obtained A Regular Visa**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Goodlatte, R-Va., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would prohibit individuals who have been to specified nations, including Syria, Iran, Sudan, and Iraq, from entering the United States unless they were interviewed by U.S. officials and obtained a regular visa, even if the individuals arrived from countries that participate in the Visa Waiver Program. The bill would also update requirements for countries to participate in the Visa Waiver Program; would require fraud-resistant electronic passports, biographic and biometric information; and would require participation in the program’s electronic collection of information on all additional countries where an applicant has or had citizenship.” The motion was agreed to by a 407-19 vote. [CQ, [12/8/15](#); HR 158, Vote 679, [12/8/15](#)]

## **Zinke Was On Neil Cavuto And Discussed The House Plan To Close Visa Wavier Program Loopholes And The Radicalization Of American Muslims**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [12/8/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **The Hill: “Zinke Also Said The Administration’s Statistic That Only Two Percent Of Syrian Refugees Being Combat-Aged Males Only Refers To Those Who Are ‘Unaccompanied.’”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.), an Iraq War veteran and retired Navy SEAL commander, hailed the bipartisan House passage of the bill requiring stricter background checks of Iraqi and Syrian refugees, which he helped author. [...] Zinke also said the administration’s statistic that only two percent of Syrian refugees being

combat-aged males only refers to those who are ‘unaccompanied.’ He also said the administration has also tried to frame the refugees as members of the ‘minority’ population in Iraq, without explicitly saying Sunnis are part of that minority. Zinke said after administration officials delivered those ‘misleading’ points during a closed briefing on Tuesday, there was a ‘groundswell’ of skepticism among lawmakers. ‘That gave me pause that we’re not getting the truth,’ he said.” [The Hill, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said That Created “Groundswell” Of Skepticism Among Lawmakers**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.), an Iraq War veteran and retired Navy SEAL commander, hailed the bipartisan House passage of the bill requiring stricter background checks of Iraqi and Syrian refugees, which he helped author. [...] Zinke also said the administration’s statistic that only two percent of Syrian refugees being combat-aged males only refers to those who are ‘unaccompanied.’ He also said the administration has also tried to frame the refugees as members of the ‘minority’ population in Iraq, without explicitly saying Sunnis are part of that minority. Zinke said after administration officials delivered those ‘misleading’ points during a closed briefing on Tuesday, there was a ‘groundswell’ of skepticism among lawmakers. ‘That gave me pause that we’re not getting the truth,’ he said.” [The Hill, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “In The Case Of The Syrian Refugees, Most Of Them Are Male. Most Of Them Are Of Military Age, And Yes, It Is A Significant Security Issue In That A Background Check Is Only As Good As The Authorities Have Information On Them.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman and former Commander of Joint Special Forces in Iraq, U.S. Navy SEAL Commander (ret.) Ryan Zinke called on House Leadership to bring two pieces of legislation to the floor in order to block President Obama’s plan to bring tens of thousands of unscreened Syrian refugees to the United States. [...] ‘In light of the information that the terrorist attack on Paris was carried out in part by an ISIS terrorist embedded in the refugee population, I am calling on Speaker Paul Ryan and Majority Leader McCarthy to bring legislation to the floor this week to stop the President’s dangerous plan to bring 180,000 refugees to the United States. ‘In the case of the Syrian refugees, most of them are male. Most of them are of military age, and yes, it is a significant security issue in that a background check is only as good as the authorities have information on them. But when you have a background check and you don’t know their background, you don’t know what they’ve done, it is enormously dangerous in the interest of our national security to accept potential terrorists. ISIS said, and now they have proven, they will use this chaos to infiltrate ISIS members in the refugee population.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [11/16/15](#)]

### **Billings Gazette: “Later Zinke Clarified That By ‘Fighting Age’ He Meant Syrian Males As Young As 14, An Age When ISIS Would Find The Children Useful.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., wants to block Syrian refugees from entering the United States until screening can be tightened. [...] Later Zinke clarified that by ‘fighting age’ he meant Syrian males as young as 14, an age when ISIS would find the children useful. He is introducing a bill with Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C., to involve the FBI and Department of Homeland Security in refugee admissions. The FBI and Homeland Security are already involved in refugee screening, but mostly on the periphery said Heather Swift, a Zinke spokeswoman.” [Billings Gazette, [11/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke On Bullock Accepting Syrian Refugees: “What I Don’t Want To See Is Montana Getting Saddled With Refugees That Aren’t Vetted Because We Didn’t Take A Stand.”**

“A veto threat from President Obama wasn’t enough to stop the U.S. House of Representatives from voting overwhelmingly to put a halt to the president’s Syrian refugee program until more screening was secured. Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke said he was proud of the vote. ‘As we’ve said, if the president doesn’t take action, Congress will,’ Zinke said. ‘I’m proud of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We decided to take action on the refugees to suspend the refugee program until we have a vetting program that we have some assurance that we don’t have terrorists among the refugees.’ The bill still needs to go to the Senate where it already faces opposition from Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid. In the meantime, Zinke reiterated his plea to Governor Bullock to resist accepting Syrian refugees in Montana. So far, 30 states have done so and Zinke said

he has not heard back from Bullock. 'What I don't want to see is Montana getting saddled with refugees that aren't vetted because we didn't take a stand,' Zinke said." [KGVO, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Urged Gov. Bullock To Block Any Efforts From The Federal Government To Move Syrian Refugees To Montana Until Exhaustive And Comprehensive Background Checks Can Be Completed**

"Montana Senator Steve Daines and Representative Ryan Zinke today urged Montana Governor Steve Bullock to block any efforts from the federal government to move Syrian refugees to Montana until exhaustive and comprehensive background checks can be completed. In a letter to Bullock, Daines and Zinke stressed the importance of prioritizing Montanans' safety and security by refusing Syrian refugees until there is 100 percent confidence in these refugees' backgrounds. At present, the state of Montana has not disallowed Syrian refugees from settling in Montana." [Office of Sen. Steve Daines, Press Release, [11/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke On Syrian Refugees: "Women Have Strapped On Suicide Vests, Children Have Killed Our Troops."**

"Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)44% , a retired Navy SEAL Team Six commander, says the U.S. should stop bringing in refugees until they can be properly vetted. [...] The State Department recently claimed that the majority of Syrian refugees coming into the United States are women and children, noting that only 2 percent of those already in the country are military-aged males with no family. 'You know it doesn't take but one and... women have strapped on suicide vests, children have killed our troops,' Zinke told Breitbart News Daily. He also pointed out that women are being used as recruiters for ISIS. Congress' only SEAL veteran recently introduced legislation along with Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC)57% , titled 'The American Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act,' to strengthen the refugee screening process." [Breitbart, [11/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Clarify The Grounds For Ineligibility For Travel To The United States Regarding Terrorism Risk**

In December 2015, Zinke cosponsored: "A bill to clarify the grounds for ineligibility for travel to the United States regarding terrorism risk, to expand the criteria by which a country may be removed from the Visa Waiver Program, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report on strengthening the Electronic System for Travel Authorization to better secure the international borders of the United States and prevent terrorists and instruments of terrorism from entering the United States, and for other purposes." [CQ, Accessed [12/7/15](#); H.R. 158, Co-sponsored 12/3/15, Introduced [1/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Require That Supplemental Certifications And Background Investigations Be Completed Prior To The Admission Of Certain Aliens As Refugees**

In November 2015, Zinke cosponsored: "A bill to require that supplemental certifications and background investigations be completed prior to the admission of certain aliens as refugees, and for other purposes." [CQ, Accessed [11/19/15](#); H.R. 4038, Co-sponsored 11/18/15, Introduced [11/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Require That The Secretary Of Homeland Security Certify That Refugees Admitted To The United States From Iraq Or Syria Are Not Security Threats To The United States Prior To Admission**

In November 2015, Zinke cosponsored: "A bill to require that the Secretary of Homeland Security certify that refugees admitted to the United States from Iraq or Syria are not security threats to the United States prior to admission." [CQ, Accessed [11/17/15](#); H.R. 3999, Co-sponsored 11/16/15, Introduced [11/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Conducting Background Checks To Vet Syrian Refugees Was "Enormously Dangerous" Because "You Don't Know Their Background, You Don't Know What They've Done."**

"U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., wants to block Syrian refugees from entering the United States until screening can be tightened. [...] Zinke, a retired Navy SEAL, said Syrian refugees are dangerous. He spoke Sunday on 'Meet the Press.' 'In the case of the Syrian refugees, most of them are male. Most of them are of military age, and yes, it is a significant security issue in that a background check is only as good as the authorities have

information on them,' Zinke said in a press release. 'But when you have a background check and you don't know their background, you don't know what they've done, it is enormously dangerous in the interest of our national security to accept potential terrorists. ISIS said, and now they have proven, they will use this chaos to infiltrate ISIS members in the refugee population.' [Billings Gazette, [11/16/15](#)]

**Zinke Spox: “[Zinke] Worked With Translators And Other Good Samaritans While In Iraq. However, This Is Not Reason To Use Lax Screening Standards For A Very Serious Threat. Zinke Would Like To See Every Single Individual Screened 100 Percent. Any Red Flags Or Even Holes In Their Backgrounds Are Not Acceptable.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)44% , a retired Navy SEAL Team Six commander, says the U.S. should stop bringing in refugees until they can be properly vetted. [...] “Rep. Zinke is sympathetic to refugees from war torn nations,” Heather Swift, a spokeswoman for congressman’s office tells Breitbart News. “He has worked with translators and other good samaritans while in Iraq. However, this is not reason to use lax screening standards for a very serious threat. Zinke would like to see every single individual screened 100 percent. Any red flags or even holes in their backgrounds are not acceptable.” [Breitbart, [11/18/15](#)]

**Zinke Was Interviewed On CNN And Discussed Increased Security Screenings For Syrian Refugees.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [11/18/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Provided “A Quick Update On The Refugee Processing,” Said The United States Needs To “Stop” And “Pause” The Syrian Refugees Until We Have A Better Vetting Process.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [11/18/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Provide For A Limitation On The Resettlement Of Refugees**

In November 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for a limitation on the resettlement of refugees.” [CQ, Accessed [11/20/15](#); H.R. 4032, Co-sponsored 11/19/15, Introduced [11/17/15](#)]

**Zinke Urged Speaker To Schedule A War Authorization Debate In Response To Deploying U.S. Troops In Syria**

“An unusual coalition of House Democrats and Republicans on Friday urged Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) to schedule a war authorization debate in response to the news that President Barack Obama is deploying U.S. troops in Syria.” Zinke signed the letter. [Huffington Post, [11/6/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I Am Calling On Speaker Paul Ryan And Majority Leader McCarthy To Bring Legislation To The Floor This Week To Stop The President’s Dangerous Plan To Bring 180,000 Refugees To The United States.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman and former Commander of Joint Special Forces in Iraq, U.S. Navy SEAL Commander (ret.) Ryan Zinke called on House Leadership to bring two pieces of legislation to the floor in order to block President Obama’s plan to bring tens of thousands of unscreened Syrian refugees to the United States. [...] ‘In light of the information that the terrorist attack on Paris was carried out in part by an ISIS terrorist embedded in the refugee population, I am calling on Speaker Paul Ryan and Majority Leader McCarthy to bring legislation to the floor this week to stop the President’s dangerous plan to bring 180,000 refugees to the United States. ’In the case of the Syrian refugees, most of them are male. Most of them are of military age, and yes, it is a significant security issue in that a background check is only as good as the authorities have information on them. But when you have a background check and you don’t know their background, you don’t know what they’ve done, it is enormously dangerous in the interest of our national security to accept potential terrorists. ISIS said, and now they have proven, they will use this chaos to infiltrate ISIS members in the refugee population.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [11/16/15](#)]

## **Zinke Was Interviewed On Meet The Press Daily And Discussed The President's AUMF And Plan In Syria.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke, [11/13/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### ***The Hill*: “[Zinke] Said The Administration Has Also Tried to Frame the Refugees as Members of the ‘Minority’ Population.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.), an Iraq War veteran and retired Navy SEAL commander, hailed the bipartisan House passage of the bill requiring stricter background checks of Iraqi and Syrian refugees, which he helped author. [...] Zinke also said the administration’s statistic that only two percent of Syrian refugees being combat-aged males only refers to those who are ‘unaccompanied.’ He also said the administration has also tried to frame the refugees as members of the ‘minority’ population in Iraq, without explicitly saying Sunnis are part of that minority. Zinke said after administration officials delivered those ‘misleading’ points during a closed briefing on Tuesday, there was a ‘groundswell’ of skepticism among lawmakers. ‘That gave me pause that we’re not getting the truth,’ he said.” [The Hill, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said That Created “Groundswell” Of Skepticism Among Lawmakers**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.), an Iraq War veteran and retired Navy SEAL commander, hailed the bipartisan House passage of the bill requiring stricter background checks of Iraqi and Syrian refugees, which he helped author. [...] Zinke also said the administration’s statistic that only two percent of Syrian refugees being combat-aged males only refers to those who are ‘unaccompanied.’ He also said the administration has also tried to frame the refugees as members of the ‘minority’ population in Iraq, without explicitly saying Sunnis are part of that minority. Zinke said after administration officials delivered those ‘misleading’ points during a closed briefing on Tuesday, there was a ‘groundswell’ of skepticism among lawmakers. ‘That gave me pause that we’re not getting the truth,’ he said.” [The Hill, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring the DHS Secretary to Certify Iraqi Or Syrian Refugees Not A Security Threat**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Thompson, D-Miss., motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report back to the House with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to verify the identities and biographic information of Iraqi and Syrian refugees and certify that the individual is not a threat to the security of the United States, but would not require that the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Director of National Intelligence conduct background checks or concur in this certification.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 180-244. [CQ, [11/19/15](#); H.R. 4038, Vote 642, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit Admitting Any Refugee From Iraq Or Syria To The United States Before The Secretary Of Homeland Security, With The Unanimous Concurrence Of The Director Of The Federal Bureau Of Investigation And The Director Of National Intelligence, Has Conducted A Thorough Background Check On Any Refugee And Certified They Were Not A Security Threat**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit admitting any refugee from Iraq or Syria to the United States before the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the unanimous concurrence of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Director of National Intelligence, has conducted a thorough background check on any refugee from Iraq or Syria and certified that they are not a security threat to the United States. Further, the bill would require that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit a monthly report to the appropriate Congressional Committees on the number of applications for admission and number of security certifications not made.” [CQ, [11/19/15](#); H.R. 4038, Vote 643, [11/19/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Consider A Bill That Would Prohibit Admitting Any Refugee From Iraq Or Syria To The United States Before The Secretary Of Homeland Security, With The Unanimous Concurrence Of The Director Of The Federal Bureau Of Investigation And The Director Of National Intelligence, Has Conducted A Thorough Background Check On Any Refugee And Certified They Were Not A Security Threat**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Collins, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 531) that would provide for House floor consideration of HR 4038, the bill that would prohibit admitting any refugee from Iraq or Syria to the United States before the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the unanimous concurrence of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Director of National Intelligence, has conducted a thorough background check on any refugee from Iraq or Syria and certified that they are not a security threat to the United States. Further, the bill would require that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit a monthly report to the appropriate Congressional Committees on the number of applications for admission and number of security certifications not made.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 243-182. [CQ, [11/19/15](#); H Res. 531, Vote 638, [11/19/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Proceed To A Bill That Would Prohibit Admitting Any Refugee From Iraq Or Syria To The United States Before The Secretary Of Homeland Security, With The Unanimous Concurrence Of The Director Of The Federal Bureau Of Investigation And The Director Of National Intelligence, Has Conducted A Thorough Background Check On Any Refugee And Certified They Were Not A Security Threat**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 531) that would provide for House floor consideration of HR 4038, the bill that would prohibit admitting any refugee from Iraq or Syria to the United States before the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the unanimous concurrence of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Director of National Intelligence, has conducted a thorough background check on any refugee from Iraq or Syria and certified that they are not a security threat to the United States. Further, the bill would require that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit a monthly report to the appropriate Congressional Committees on the number of applications for admission and number of security certifications not made.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 242-183. [CQ, [11/19/15](#); H. Res. 531, Vote 639, [11/19/15](#)]

**Zinke On Syrian Refugees: “Suicide Bombers Are Not Repeat Offenders. They Have No Background. They Strike Once. And They Invoke Incredible Damage. Allowing Just One Is Too Many.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)44% , a retired Navy SEAL Team Six commander, says the U.S. should stop bringing in refugees until they can be properly vetted. Zinke joined the Breitbart News Daily Show on Sirius XM Patriot channel 125 to discuss his opposition to Obama’s plan to bring more refugees into the United States. The Montana Republican, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, told host Stephen K. Bannon that because Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL)-linked terrorists involved in the Nov. 13 Paris attacks may have been embedded in France’s refugee population, the Republican leadership in Congress should stop the president’s ‘dangerous plan to bring 180,000 refugees to the United States.’ Regarding the argument that refugees must pass a criminal background check before they are admitted into the U.S., he said on the radio program, ‘Suicide bombers are not repeat offenders.’ ‘They have no background. They strike once. And they invoke incredible damage. Allowing just one is too many,’ Zinke elaborated in comments to Breitbart News.” [Breitbart, [11/18/15](#)]

**Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Suspend The Admission Of Refugees Into The United States In Order To Examine The Costs Of Providing Benefits To Them**

In September 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A bill to suspend the admission into the United States of refugees in order to examine the costs of providing benefits to such individuals, and for other purposes.” [CQ, Accessed [9/16/15](#), H.R. 3314, Co-sponsored 9/15/15, Introduced [7/29/15](#)]

## **Zinke Said Accepting Syrian Refugees Into The United States Was “Enormously Dangerous” To National Security**

“Wondering about the President bringing 100,000+ refugees from Syria to the U.S.? When is this president going to stop a policy of retreat? What we’re seeing across the world is chaos because we are watching and witnessing our traditional alliances being disassembled. The red line he put in Syria has now become a blood line. Christians being persecuted, children being decapitated, entire villages being crucified – horrendous acts. Yet we have done nothing to prevent that and shore up our alliances. This is what happens when we retreat from the field. It is enormously dangerous in the interest of our national security to accept potential terrorists. ISIS said a few weeks ago they will use this chaos to infiltrate ISIS members – and that’s a threat. I’m concerned. America should be concerned. And we need to hold our administration and those who support this policy accountable.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [9/23/15](#)]

## **Zinke Criticized The Administration Attempt To Accept An Influx Of Syrian Refugees Into The United States And Claimed The Syrian Refugee Crisis Was A Result Of The Administration’s Failed Foreign Policy Throughout The World.**

[FOX News, Fox And Friends, [9/21/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **Zinke: “Obama’s Plan To Bring 180000 Middle Eastern Refugees To US Is A Clear Threat To Our Security.”**

In September 2015, Zinke tweeted: “Obama’s plan to bring 180000 Middle Eastern refugees to US is a clear threat to our security.” [Twitter, [@RyanZinke](#), [9/20/15](#)]

## **Zinke Said The Military’s Plan To Train And Equip Syrian Rebels Was A “Dismal Failure” And He Was Not “Shocked” But “Disappointed”**

In July 2015 Zinke was interviewed on CNN. “KEILAR: The secretary of defense yesterday, as we turn now to Syria to talk about this, he said this week 60 Syrian fighters have been trained as part of U.S. efforts to train moderate Syrian rebels to fight ISIS, because obviously U.S. troops aren’t going in there. It’s a \$500 million program for 60 fighters. What do you think about that? ZINKE: Dismal failure. You look at Syria, one is, what’s our policy in Syria? Are we going to support a regime change? Are we not? Are we going to cede the Syrian desert to ISIS, as we’re presently doing? And if you’re an ally of us, do you have the confidence we’re going to be there? Am I shocked that there’s 60? No, I’m not shocked. I’m disappointed. But take it from a perspective of an individual that wants to be trained by the U.S. If they know that -- if we’re not going to stand with them, and you’re going to be targeted, your family’s going to be killed because we’re not going to be there for you, then why would you be trained by the U.S.? So I think our policy needs to change and we do need to remove ISIS from the Syrian desert, we need to engage the Syrian Free Army much more than we’re doing. But it is right now -- 60 individuals is a dismal failure and it will never bring the ball to the field.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [7/9/15](#)]

## **Zinke Criticized “Obama’s Plan to Bring 180,000 Middle Eastern Refugees to US”**



**Ryan Zinke** @RyanZinke · 20 Sep 2015

Obama's plan to bring 180000 Middle Eastern refugees to US is a clear threat to our security. Watch me discuss on [@foxandfriends](#) tomo 6:15am

[Twitter, [@RyanZinke](#), 9/20/15]

## **Zinke Voted Against A Resolution Directing The President To Withdraw Troops From Iraq And Syria**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against the: “adoption of the concurrent resolution (H Con Res 55) that would direct the president to withdraw U.S. forces deployed to Iraq in support of operations against the Islamic State in Syria

and Iraq, other than armed forces required to protect U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel within 30 days of enactment.” The resolution failed 139-288. [CQ, [6/18/15](#); H. Con. Res. 55, Vote 370, [6/17/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Eliminating \$600 Million In Funding For Syria Train & Equip Fund**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would “eliminate the \$600 million appropriated for the Syria Train and Equip Fund and transfer the savings to the spending reduction account.” The amendment failed, 107-323. [H.R. 2685, [Vote #343](#), 6/10/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called Raid that Killed an Islamic State Official in Syria a “Great Operation” That Would Be “Enormously Helpful.”**

“Lawmakers on Sunday praised the raid that killed an Islamic State official in Syria, but cautioned that the United States still faces continued turmoil in the Middle East. Rep. Ryan Zinke, a Montana Republican who formerly commanded Navy SEAL Team Six, said that the target, known as Abu Sayyaf, ‘was not in the top 10’ of Islamic State leadership and that his death is not ‘going to change the tide of what’s going on in Syria and the Middle East.’ But Zinke, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, nonetheless called the raid a ‘great operation’ that would be ‘enormously helpful’ to the U.S. campaign against the militant group, which controls large swaths of Syria and western and northern Iraq. Zinke was interviewed on CNN’s ‘State of the Union.’ [Chicago Tribune, [5/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Death Of Islamic State Official Was Not “Going To Change The Tide Of What’s Going On In Syria And The Middle East.”**

“Lawmakers on Sunday praised the raid that killed an Islamic State official in Syria, but cautioned that the United States still faces continued turmoil in the Middle East. Rep. Ryan Zinke, a Montana Republican who formerly commanded Navy SEAL Team Six, said that the target, known as Abu Sayyaf, ‘was not in the top 10’ of Islamic State leadership and that his death is not ‘going to change the tide of what’s going on in Syria and the Middle East.’ But Zinke, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, nonetheless called the raid a ‘great operation’ that would be ‘enormously helpful’ to the U.S. campaign against the militant group, which controls large swaths of Syria and western and northern Iraq. Zinke was interviewed on CNN’s ‘State of the Union.’ [Chicago Tribune, [5/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Success Of The Raid Should Not Distract Americans From The Longer-Term Problems Facing U.S. Policy In The Region**

“Lawmakers on Sunday praised the raid that killed an Islamic State official in Syria, but cautioned that the United States still faces continued turmoil in the Middle East. [...] Zinke said the apparent success of the raid should not distract Americans from the longer-term problems facing U.S. policy in the region. The United States still lacks a plan for Syria and for whether its leader, President Bashar Assad, should stay or go, he said, and Islamic State has made gains in recent days in Ramadi, a major Iraqi city. Later Sunday, the militants and Iraqi officials said the key city had fallen to Islamic State forces. ‘This is going to be an enormous problem for the president as well as the next president,’ Zinke said.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “This Is Going To Be An Enormous Problem For The President As Well As The Next President.”**

“Lawmakers on Sunday praised the raid that killed an Islamic State official in Syria, but cautioned that the United States still faces continued turmoil in the Middle East. [...] Zinke said the apparent success of the raid should not distract Americans from the longer-term problems facing U.S. policy in the region. The United States still lacks a plan for Syria and for whether its leader, President Bashar Assad, should stay or go, he said, and Islamic State has made gains in recent days in Ramadi, a major Iraqi city. Later Sunday, the militants and Iraqi officials said the key city had fallen to Islamic State forces. ‘This is going to be an enormous problem for the president as well as the next president,’ Zinke said.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “This Particular Operation, It’s Not Going To Change The Background. The Background Is: We Need A Plan In Syria.”**

“American lawmakers praised a U.S. raid that killed an Islamic State leader in Syria, but it was not clear whether such risky special operations represented a new approach in the fight against the militant group. [...] Representative Ryan Zinke, a Republican former commander of Navy SEAL Team Six, the unit known for killing Osama bin Laden in 2011, said the operation did not ease concerns with U.S. policy in the region. ‘We face a very difficult challenge in Iraq and Syria,’ he said. ‘This particular operation, it’s not going to change the background. The background is: we need a plan in Syria.’ [Reuters, [5/17/15](#)]

### **Accused Obama of “Sending in a Few Missiles” to Syria to Help Approval Ratings**

On August 29, 2013, Zinke issued a statement about Syria on Special Operations for America’s website accusing Obama of “sending in a few missiles [...] to stop the President’s falling approval ratings.” Zinke wrote, “Ironically, it would seem that the only people that the administration has not provided our plan to is the US Congress. If he does, I would hope it would include a hint of purpose and intent. If not to topple a dictator who we claim used chemical weapons, what exactly do we hope to accomplish by sending in a few missiles other than helping to stop the President’s falling approval ratings?” [Special Operations for America, [8/29/13](#)]

## **UKRAINE**

### **Zinke Voted For Urging POTUS to Provide Ukraine With Lethal Defense Weapons Systems to Fight Russian Aggression**

On March 23, 2015, Zinke voted in favor of a: “Motion to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution stating that the House of Representatives ‘strongly urges’ the president to fully and immediately exercise authorities provided by Congress to provide Ukraine with lethal defensive weapons systems in order to enhance the ability of the Ukrainian people to defend their sovereign territory from the “unprovoked and continuing aggression of the Russian Federation.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 348-48. [CQ, [3/23/15](#); H. Res 162, Vote 131, [3/23/15](#)]

# GUNS

- ✓ Zinke received an A- from the NRA, but in 2008 Zinke received a 42% rating. In 2008, he received a B from the Montana Shooting Sports Association.
- ✓ In recent years, Zinke has been an ardent support for the right to own guns and ammunition.
- ✓ He has been a vocal opponent of even reasonable gun restrictions, such as the President's executive orders on guns – calling them “unconstitutional” and part of a “tyrannical record.”
- ✓ He also voted against giving the Attorney General the authority to deny the sale or transfer of firearms to suspected terrorists. He even voted against debating the terrorist gun loophole.
- ✓ He repeatedly voted against attempts to even review the Denying Firearms & Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act.
- ✓ He voted to block consideration of background checks for gun purchases. In 2014, Zinke said the decision should be up to the Sheriff. In 2008, he was “undecided” on background checks at gun shows.
- ✓ He cosponsored a bill for the disposition within 60 days of an application of exemption from classification as armor piercing ammunition.
- ✓ He claimed to support local control, but he urged the Missoula City Council to withdraw a proposal that would expand regulations on private firearm transfers.
- ✓ He called for the military to be allowed to arm themselves at military facilities and recruitment centers.
- ✓ ...BUT in 2014, Zinke was criticized for waffling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment with guns in school and .50-caliber rifles. He also said he supported some gun control measures.
- ✓ ...BUT in the legislature, Zinke showed strong opposition to .50-caliber rifles. Gary Marbut of the Montana Shooting Sports Association noting the sudden change when he faced a Republican primary in 2014, “a sudden, election season conversion.” He was also criticized by a primary opponent for supporting gun control.
- ✓ ...BUT Zinke said in 2014: “I don't work for the NRA.” “I did vote against the NRA.”
- ✓ ...BUT the National Association for Gun Rights: “Zinke is on record voting AGAINST your gun rights.”
- ✓ ...BUT in 2008, Zinke supported background checks,
- ✓ ...BUT In 2008, Zinke believed that “heavy weapons and specialized military weapon systems should be banned for public use.”

- ✓ He said he believed that a federal ID system for weapons was no longer a good idea, because of “other database abuses”

### **Zinke Received an A- from the NRA**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Zinke received an A- from the [National Rifle Association (NRA)].” [Great Falls Tribune, 11/02/14]

### **Rick Hill: Zinke “Earned an 8% Rating from the Montana Shooting Sports Association”**

“In 2014, Rick Hill wrote that he found it “troubling” that Zinke “earned an 8% rating from the Montana Shooting Sports Association.” [Daily Inter Lake, [5/22/14](#)]

*NOTE: The article did not describe the year this score was issued.*

### **2008: 42% Lifetime Score from the NRA Political Victory Fund**

In 2008, the National Rifle Association’s Political Victory Fund awarded Zinke a 42 percent lifetime score. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **2008: Received a “B” from the Montana Shooting Sports Association**

In 2008, Zinke received a “B” from the Montana Shooting Sports Association. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Zinke Stressed His Support for the Right to Own Guns & Ammo**

Zinke’s 2016 campaign website read, “‘There are some things that are not negotiable: Faith, Family, the Constitution... and you better add guns and land if you’re a Montanan.’ – Ryan Zinke ... Ryan is a fifth generation Montanan who grew up right outside Glacier National Park. Whether it’s defending our right to bear arms or ensuring mixed use of our beautiful public lands, Ryan knows that it’s our core Montana values that make Montana the Last Best Place. Ryan’s love and appreciation for Montana’s outdoor heritage began early and still continues to grow to this day. Ryan is one of the most outspoken advocates for better federal management of public lands and continues to introduce and support bipartisan legislation to ensure public access and traditional mixed use. Ryan is a staunch advocate of our right to bear arms. He believes our Second Amendment rights protect all the others. **Ryan fully supports the rights of lawful gun and ammo ownership and he will not tolerate anyone trying to take that away through Congressional or Executive action.**” [RyanZinke.com, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

### **Zinke Criticized President’s Exec. Orders on Guns**



Ryan Zinke

January 5 · 🌐

He is not King Obama.



### Congressman Zinke Calls Obama Gun Orders 'Unconstitutional,' Part of a 'Tyrannical Record'

Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke pulled no punches in denouncing a series of executive orders and legislative proposals announced by President Obama this...

NEWSTALKKGVO.COM

[Facebook, Ryan Zinke, 1/05/16]

### **Zinke Voted Against Giving the AG Authority to Deny The Sale Or Transfer Of Firearms to Suspected Terrorists**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Bishop, R-Utah, motion to table the Thompson, D-Calif., motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair that the Thompson motion to recommit is out of order. The Thompson, D-Calif., motion to recommit proposed adding an amendment to the Red River Private Property Protection Act (HR 2130) that would grant the Attorney General authority to deny the sale or transfer of firearms, and to deny the issuance of federal firearms licenses, to any individuals known or suspected of engaging in conduct constituting, relating to or in support of terrorism.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 246-182. [CQ, [12/9/15](#); H.R. 2130, Vote 685, [12/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Debating Closing Terrorist Gun Loophole**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Newhouse, R-Wash., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 556) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 2130) that would require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell to current and adjacent landowners the roughly 30,000 acres of federal land along the border between Texas and Oklahoma. The rule would also grant same-day authority through Dec. 13, allowing for expedited consideration of a possible spending bill.” A vote for the motion ordering the previous question is a vote to end debate without allowing alternative proposals, while a vote against ordering the previous question is a vote to allow the minority party to offer an alternative proposal. For this vote: “The Democratic Previous Question would call for an immediate vote on Republican Congressman Peter King’s Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act, H.R. 1076, to protect the American people by closing the terrorist gun loophole and preventing people on the terrorist watchlist from buying firearms.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 242-178. [CQ, [12/9/15](#); H.Res. 556, Vote 682, [12/9/15](#); [114th Congress Previous Questions](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Procedural Motion to Review the Denying Firearms & Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “McCarthy, R-Calif., motion to table the Pelosi, D-Calif., motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair that the Pelosi privileged resolution is out of order. The Pelosi privileged resolution would direct the Speaker to place on the calendar the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous

Terrorists Act (HR 1076), which would allow the Attorney General to deny the sale or transfer of firearms to individuals suspected of engaging in or assisting terrorist activities.” The motion was agreed to by a 242-173 vote. [CQ, [12/10/15](#); motion to table H.R. 1076, Vote 688, [12/10/15](#)]

### **House Republicans Blocked An Effort To Hold An Immediate Vote On A Bill To Curb Gun Purchases By Suspected Terrorists**

“House Republicans thwarted the latest attempt by Democrats on Thursday to force a vote on curbing gun purchases by suspected terrorists as the two parties continued testing the political impact of last week’s mass shooting in California. By a near-party line vote of 242-173, the House turned aside an effort by Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to hold an immediate vote on the legislation. The bill is sponsored by one of the few GOP lawmakers who support gun restrictions, Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y.” [AP, [12/10/15](#)]

### **Headline: “House GOP Blocks Dem Effort To Force Vote On Banning Terror Suspects From Buying Guns.”**

[AP, [12/10/15](#)]

### **House Democrats Forced Protest Votes On Preventing Suspected Terrorists From Buying Guns, In The Form Of Motions To Adjourn**

“House Democrats on Tuesday forced protest votes as part of a push to call attention to gun control measures in the aftermath of a series of recent mass shootings. Rep. Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) made a motion to adjourn as the House began legislative work for the day on noncontroversial homeland security-related bills. ‘Since the House won’t take up legislation to prevent the senseless deaths of 30 people killed today by someone using a gun, I move that the House be adjourned,’ Thompson said. Democrats in the House and Senate are pushing a measure to ban people on the government’s ‘no fly’ list from buying guns. Before calling for the motion to adjourn, Democrats repeatedly took to the House floor to urge a vote on the bill. [...] Each of the motions to adjourn made by Democrats failed. Proceedings on the eight homeland security bills, including a measure to tighten the visa waiver program in the aftermath of recent terror attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, Calif., were subsequently delayed for most of the afternoon. Republicans expressed frustration with the repeated votes forced by Democrats, and argued the proposal might prevent people inadvertently on the ‘no-fly’ list from the right to bear arms.” [The Hill, [12/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against A Motion To Adjourn**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Thompson, D-Calif., motion to adjourn.” The motion was rejected by a 0-399 vote. [CQ, [12/8/15](#); Vote 674, [12/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against A Motion To Adjourn**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Kildee, D-Mich., motion to adjourn.” The motion was rejected by a 0-405 vote. [CQ, [12/8/15](#); Vote 675, [12/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against A Motion To Adjourn**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Swalwell, D-Calif., motion to adjourn.” The motion was rejected by a 3-399 vote. [CQ, [12/8/15](#); Vote 676, [12/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against A Motion To Adjourn**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Speier, D-Calif., motion to adjourn.” The motion was rejected by a 4-394 vote. [CQ, [12/8/15](#); Vote 677, [12/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against A Motion To Adjourn**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Capps, D-Calif., motion to adjourn.” The motion was rejected by a 7-398 vote. [CQ, [12/8/15](#); Vote 678, [12/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Debating Proposal To Close Terrorist Gun Loophole**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Woodall, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 546) that would provide for House floor consideration of the conference report to accompany HR 22, the bill that would reauthorize federal-aid highway and transit programs for five years, through FY 2020, at increased funding levels. The bill would transfer over \$70 billion from the Treasury’s general fund and other funds to cover projected shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund and to fully fund the measure’s estimated \$305 billion cost. Further, the bill would reauthorize Amtrak, renew the charter for the Export-Import Bank, and roll back a reduction in the crop insurance program used as an offset in last month’s two-year budget deal.” A vote for the motion ordering the previous question is a vote to end debate without allowing alternative proposals, while a vote against ordering the previous question is a vote to allow the minority party to offer an alternative proposal. For this vote: “The Democratic Previous Question would call for an immediate vote on Republican Congressman Peter King’s Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act, H.R. 1076, to protect the American people by closing the terrorist gun loophole and preventing people on the terrorist watchlist from buying firearms.” The motion was agreed to by a 243-179 vote. [CQ, [12/3/15](#); H.Res. 546, Vote 666, [12/3/15](#); [114<sup>th</sup> Congress Previous Questions](#)]

### **Voted to Block Consideration Of Background Checks For Gun Purchases**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for to block consideration of a vote “on the bipartisan King-Thompson Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act to strengthen the life-saving background checks that keep guns out of the wrong hands.” The previous question passed, 244-183. A vote against the previous question was to force a vote on background checks. [H Res 466, [Vote #541](#), 10/8/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [10/23/15](#)]

### **...Previously, Stated Sheriff Should Make The Decision**

In 2014, Zinke said that he “an advocate of the sheriff making the call on these things, rather than the federal government.” Zinke said, “And but I do think, as far as these things go, I think Mr. Sherriff, I think you know better, about who should be getting these, than a federal database. So you know, I’m an advocate of the sheriff making the call on these things, rather than the federal government.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

### **Undecided about Background Checks on Sales between Private Citizens at Gun Shows**

In 2008, Zinke indicated that he was undecided if background checks should be requirement on gun sales between private citizens at gun shows. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Bill for the Disposition in 60 Days of Exemption from Classification as Armor Piercing Ammunition**

In October 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the disposition, within 60 days, of an application to exempt a projectile from classification as armor piercing ammunition.” [CQ, Accessed [10/23/15](#); H.R. 3802, Co-sponsored 10/22/15, Introduced [10/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Urged the Missoula City Council to Withdraw a Proposal to Expanded Regulations on Private Firearm Transfers**

“Senator Steve Daines and Representative Ryan Zinke today called on the Missoula City Council to withdraw a proposed ordinance that would intrude upon the Constitutional rights of law-abiding firearm owners in Missoula. In a letter sent today to Missoula Mayor John Engen and the Missoula City Council, Daines and Zinke conveyed their concerns that the proposal would violate Montanans’ Second Amendment rights and place additional burdens on law-abiding Montanans, while doing little to prevent violent crime. ‘We write to express our strong concerns with the Missoula City Council Public Safety and Health Committee’s substantial intrusion into the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners through its proposed expansion of regulations on private firearm transfers,’ Daines and Zinke wrote. ‘While we value local decision making, it is essential that policies at every level of government uphold the rights granted to all Americans under the U.S. Constitution. Therefore we feel obligated on this rare occasion to express our opposition to the misguided ordinance, which

would create unnecessary burdens on law-abiding Montanans while proving ineffective in preventing violent crime.” [Office of Sen. Steve Daines, Press Release, [10/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke OR Shooting: “I Am Deeply Saddened By The Tragic Shooting Of Christians & Other Innocent Lives In Oregon.”**

“The shooting on an Oregon college campus Thursday fired up the gun law debate on both sides of the issue. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Montana): ‘I am deeply saddened by the tragic shooting of Christians and other innocent lives in Oregon. My heart and the prayers of Lola and me go out to the families and community.’ [KPAX, [10/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke On Chattanooga Shooting: “This Administration Needs To Wake The Hell Up & Face Radical Islamic Terrorism.”**

“Ryan Zinke, when asked to comment on the terrorist attack in Chattanooga yesterday that left four Marines dead, said the Obama administration needs to accept that the U.S. homeland is under attack by radical Islamic terrorists. [...] Rep. Zinke said that his thoughts and prayers are with the families of those killed and wounded in the incident. He said the Obama administration is asleep at the wheel, refusing to call Thursday’s attack for what it is: an act of Islamic radical terrorism. ‘This administration needs to wake the hell up and face radical Islamic terrorism,’ the freshman lawmaker told Breitbart News. ‘The President still has not called it what it is: radical Islamic terrorism,’ Zinke added. ‘It’s time to wake the hell up. I do commend local law enforcement and the FBI for their quick response.’ The FBI has labeled the attack ‘an act of domestic terrorism.’ [Breitbart, [7/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called On Sec. Of Defense Carter to Allow The U.S. Military To Arm Themselves At Military Facilities**

“Today U.S. Rep. John L. Mica (FL-07) and other Members of Congress called on Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter to allow U.S. military to arm and defend themselves at vulnerable military facilities.” Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Rep. John Mica, Press Release, [7/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Ban On Weapons In Military Facilities And Recruitment Centers “Should Be Immediately Lifted.”**

“With the recent attack at the military recruiting center in Chattanooga, Tennessee many have called for security to be increased. According to the Wall Street Journal the U.S. Military has directed recruitment centers to step up security. A statement sent to us Congressman Ryan Zinke says the war of terrorism has reached America ‘The ban should be immediately lifted and military commanders should be giving the authority to arm military service members as appropriate. The war on terrorism has reached America’s heartland and our military needs to maintain a force posture that reflects the threat.’ said Zinke. Zinke is working with fellow combat veteran Rep. Duncan Hunter on legislation to address these issues.” [KTVH, [7/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Sp. Bill To Allow The Military To Authorize Recruiters To Be Armed While They’re At Recruitment Centers**

“Today Montana Congressman and retired Navy SEAL Ryan Zinke joined California Rep. and Marine Major Duncan Hunter in introducing the Securing Military Personnel Response Firearm Initiative (SEMPER FI) Act to allow the military to authorize recruiters to be armed while they’re at recruitment centers and also allows them to improve security at recruitment centers in lieu of carrying a sidearm. Senator Steve Daines introduced the legislation in the Senate. Military recruiting centers have been under strict firearm restrictions since the Clinton Administration. Rep. Zinke said, ‘This week, I am joining Congressman and Marine Major Duncan Hunter and Senator Steve Daines in introducing legislation to enhance security at Armed Forces recruiting centers by allowing our expertly trained military members to defend themselves from attacks. This is not the first time radical Islamic terrorism has reached the homeland. The only thing that makes their loss more difficult, is not taking action to prevent future loss. Congress must send a clear and absolute message that this

cowardly attack will not be ignored, and our heroes did not die in vain.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Argued to “Enhance Security At Our Armed Forces Centers While Allowing Our Military Members To Defend Themselves From Attacks.”**

In July 2014, Zinke said: “Today I rise in tribute to Marine Sergeant Carson Holmquist, Purple Heart recipient Thomas Sullivan, Marine Lance Corporal Skip Wells, Marine Lance Corporal Sergeant David Wyatt and Navy Petty Officer Second Class Randall Smith. And today I rise to assure their loved ones and the American people that Congress will act to prevent this tragic loss from occurring again. This week, I am joining Congressman and former Marine Corps Major Duncan Hunter in introducing legislation to enhance security at our Armed Forces centers while allowing our military members to defend themselves from attacks. Congress and I send a clear message that this cowardly attack will not be ignored and our heroes shall not die in vain. I urge all my members to join me in flying the Marine Corps flag and the Navy anchor flag outside their D.C. office this week. God bless America; and God bless the men and women who defend her. Semper fi and anchors away.” [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [7/27/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Cosp. Revision of Laws Interfering with the Right to Obtain & Use Firearms for All Lawful Purposes**

In June 2015, Zinke cosponsored “A bill to revise various laws that interfere with the right of the people to obtain and use firearms for all lawful purposes.” [CQ, Accessed [6/15/15](#); H.R. 2710, Cosponsored 6/10/15, Introduced [6/10/15](#)]

### **Would Eliminate the ATF’s Authority to Prohibit .223 Caliber Ammunition & Eliminate Ambiguity Allowing Restrictions on Some Shotguns & Shotgun Shells**

“Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-01) has introduced H.R. 2710, the Lawful Purpose and Self-Defense Act of 2015. This bill will reign in the Obama Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The ATF has attempted to ban ammunition used in the popular AR-15 rifle. The bill will eliminate the ATF’s illegitimate authority to prohibit this .223 caliber ammunition. This legislation will also eliminate ambiguity in current code that could allow the ATF and the Administration to restrict certain types of shotguns and shotgun shells that are used for self-defense.” [Office of Rep. Bishop, Press Release, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Bill to Defund “Operation Choke Point” Placing Regulatory Pressure On High Risk Industries**

In March 2015, Zinke cosponsored “a bill to terminate Operation Choke Point.” [CQ, Accessed [3/23/15](#); H.R. 1413, Cosponsored 3/19/15, Introduced [3/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said the President Is Attempting to Ban Ammunition Because He “Lost His Challenge on Banning Guns.”**

“Among those opposing the ban is Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Montana), who believes that the ban is a step in the wrong direction. ‘This president lost his challenge on banning guns and so the next logical step in his mind is to go after the ammunition; and I don’t think Congress will have any part of it,’ said Zinke. Zinke said, counter to what the ATF says, the true issue is that 5.56 MM rounds are not hand gun ammunition, nor are they armor piercing.” [KTVM, [3/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The “Administration Has Proven They Are The Biggest Domestic Threat To The Constitution Of The United States Of America.”**

Zinke said on Facebook, “President Obama does not share Montana’s values, and his Administration has proven they are the biggest domestic threat to the Constitution of the United States of America. I vehemently oppose any attempt by the Obama Administration to restrict our Second Amendment rights.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [3/10/15](#)]

## **Zinke Said Congress Should Defund the ATF To Make Sure They Do Not Have Enough Money to Execute The Ammo Ban**

ZINKE 28:10 “Well, yes I think we have enough numbers that understand what is at stake. Case and point, it is not about the DHS bill and not about amnesty per say it is about the Constitution and if you take an oath to the defend it and something is willfully and knowingly in violation of the Constitution, you can’t support it, so defunding it is where congress has its power and Congress can defund the ATF and make sure they do not have enough money to execute this. Congress is closest to the people and for a while Congress was silent but I don’t think we should be anymore we are an equal branch of government, we need to exercise our power and authority.” [YouTube, Gun Talk Media, [3/5/15](#)]

## **Zinke Opposed Banning M855 ‘Green Tip’ Sporting Ammunition**

“This week, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT-00) blasted the Obama Administration for their latest attempt to infringe on Montanans’ Second Amendment rights by banning the popular M855 ‘green tip’ sporting ammunition. Rep Zinke, along with more than 100 Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, sent a letter to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives urging them to reconsider the ammo ban.” [Fairfield Sun Times, [3/1/15](#)]

## **Zinke Criticized for Waffling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment with Guns in Schools & .50-Cal Rifles**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “The Montana Democratic Party this week responded by claiming GOP House candidate Ryan Zinke has waffled on whether guns belong in schools, and whether .50-caliber rifles are too dangerous for civilians to own.... Kathy Lewis, communications director for the Lewis campaign [said,] ‘The Montana GOP seems to have forgotten that its own leaders have been critical of Ryan Zinke for his record of waffling on the Second Amendment.’” [Great Falls Tribune, Political Pulse Column, [9/09/14](#)]

## **Zinke “Said He Supports Some Gun-Control Measures.”**

“Zinke called for the country to ‘abandon ship’ on Obamacare and said he supports some gun-control measures.” [Hotline, 6/16/14]

## **MSSA Gary Marbut: Zinke Strong Opposition to .50 Caliber Rifles Being Available, “Sudden Election Season Conversion”**

“When Zinke was in the Legislature, he and I had two or three spirited conversations wherein he voiced the strong opinion that .50 caliber rifles are far too dangerous for civilians to be allowed to own. He felt strongly about that then. Then, about the time he announced his candidacy for the U.S. House, he sent me a card saying he’d changed his position on .50 caliber files. **Yes, a sudden, election season conversion.**” [Montana Shooting Sports Association, [6/02/14](#)]

## **Video: Cory Stapleton: Zinke Was for Gun Control**

“When I first met you, you were for gun control, and now you say you’re not. My concern is that your positions are less on principle and more on what you think you need to say to win.” [GOP debate, [5/30/14](#)]

## **Video: Zinke: “I Don’t Work for the NRA.”**

In the GOP primary debate, Zinke said “I don’t work for the NRA.” “Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, received just a 42 percent rating from the National Rifle Association. ‘I don’t work for the NRA,’ he said. ‘I’m a member. I appreciate and respect the NRA, but I don’t work for them.’” [AP, [5/29/14](#); AFP, [5/28/14](#)]

## **Video: Zinke: “I Did Vote Against the NRA.”**

In the GOP primary debate, Zinke said “And I did vote against the NRA.” [AFP, [5/28/14](#)]

## **Video: Zinke: I Don’t Think We Need Guns in Court Houses or Airports.”**

In 2014, Zinke said, “I don’t think we need guns in court houses or airports.” [GCRW, [5/21/14](#)]

### **National Association for Gun Rights: “Zinke is On Record Voting AGAINST Your Gun Rights”**

In 2014, the National Association for Gun Rights wrote “Do not believe Ryan Zinke’s claims on being ‘pro-gun.’ Zinke is on record voting AGAINST your gun rights. Do you want a Representative in DC voting the same way?” [National Association for Gun Rights, [5/12/14](#)]

### **Zinke said He “Got a Whole Lesson Learned About the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment”**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said he “went around Montana [and] got a whole lesson learned about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.” Zinke said, “So when I came back to Montana, I had reservations about the .50 being sold the same day. You know what, and then I went around Montana. I got a whole lesson learned about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. And the lesson is this: as a Congressman or a legislator, you’re a representative. It’s not Ryan Zinke, it’s you. You’re my boss. And I can tell you Montana values the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, and I don’t have a problem with it anymore. Because you don’t have a problem with it anymore.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Auctioned a Nemo 300 Rifle**

In 2014, Zinke’s campaign auctioned a Nemo 300 rifle.



[Facebook, accessed [5/13/14](#)]

### **Said that He Was an “Avid Fisherman and Hunter”**

At a March 2014 Republican primary debate, Zinke said that he was “an avid fisherman and hunter.” Zinke said, “Is the question how many years I’ve hunted or how many years I’ve actually got something? No, I take my sons out with me almost every year, and I’m an avid fisherman and hunter. I think access is a problem because not everyone can go and walk over three ridges anymore, and I agree that access is a problem.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Supported Background Checks**

In 2008, Zinke said that he believed “background checks are prudent and necessary.” Zinke said, “I believe that background checks are prudent and necessary.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **...BUT 6 Yrs Later: Zinke said that Federal ID System for Weapons was Not a Good Idea**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said that he no longer believed that a federal ID system for weapons was a good idea. Zinke said, “Now do I think we, that, that checks, that a federal ID system is a good idea? Not anymore. Not with NSA, not with the IRS, not with the other database abuses. So I think actually the local sheriff should make the call. That’s where I am on weapons.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Video: Aaron Flynt: Zinke “Undecided on Background Checks at Gun Shows.”**

“Ryan here is the question from the MSU College Republican board. Project Vote Smart reports that you are undecided on background checks at gun shows, undecided on the current levels of state enforcement of gun

legislation and current restrictions on the purchase and possession of guns. In addition Project Vote Smart reports, shows that you supported keeping abortion legal within the first trimester.” [GOP Debate, [3/24/14](#)]

### **Said He Had Issues With the .50 Caliber**

In 2014, Zinke said that he originally had “some real problems about the .50 caliber” since it was developed for hard targets but that his “opinion was in the far, far minority. Because Montanans love guns.” Zinke said, “And when I was in SEAL Team Six, we developed the .50 caliber sniper rifle, not for personnel but for hard targets, and when I came back from Iraq, and I joined the legislature, I had some real problems about the .50 caliber. Because I knew how it was developed, and I knew what it was for, and I thought, you know, I’m not sure that it’s a good idea that someone can, can just go in to the gun shop, and buy one of these. Well, I went around Montana. And I can tell you that my opinion was in the far, far minority. Because Montanans love guns.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

### **Changed His Mind on .50 Caliber**

In January 2014, speaking at Hometown Helena, Zinke said that “So, I’ve changed my mind on the .50 [caliber] because Montana is clearly with the weapons.” Zinke said, “Now, we may agree or disagree on different subjects, but as a legislator, and a congressman, I work for you. And whether you agree or disagree with me personally, you’re my boss, and I’ll listen, always. So, I’ve changed my mind on the .50. Because Montana is clearly with the weapons.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

### **Guest of Honor at “Resistance Day Rally” in Salt Lake City**

In February 2013, Zinke was the keynote speaker and guest of honor at the “Resistance Day Rally” in Salt Lake City, Utah with pro-gun right attendees. [Facebook, [2/12/13](#)]

### **Said that “Hollywood and the Administration” Took a Stand Against Guns**

In January 2013, wrote on Facebook that “both Hollywood and the administration have decided to take a stand against this fundamental freedom.” However, as of May 2014, his larger statement about new legislation on gun control was no longer available on the Special Operations for America’s website. Zinke wrote, “Americans like guns and like to own guns. More importantly it is a right that is written into our Constitution, It’s ironic that both Hollywood and the administration have decided to take a stand against this fundamental freedom.” [Facebook, [1/10/13](#)]

### **Said Flathead Co. Could Become the “Silicon Valley” of the “Firearms Industry”**

In April 2012, after touring a new firearm manufacturing company in Flathead County, Zinke said that the firearms industry “is an industry we can compete in.” Zinke said, “The lifestyle is bringing these companies to the Flathead. Firearms is an industry we can compete in. We’re creating a kind of Silicon Valley here in the firearms industry, with lots of networking and cost-sharing.” [Hungry Horse News, 4/18/12]

### **Changed his Beliefs on Citizens’ Ownership of .50 Caliber Rifles**

In April 2012, the Montana Shooting Sports Association assessed the Republican candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. In their assessment of Zinke, they noted that Zinke formerly expressed that “civilians” should not be allowed to own a .50 caliber rifle but by April 2012, Zinke had changed his opinion and had wholeheartedly supported civilian ownership of .50 caliber rifles. [Ammo Land, 4/16/12]

### **Tried to Find Qualified Machinists for Firearm Industry**

In January 2012, as a director of the Montana Firearms Institute, Zinke said that they were looking to find qualified machinists for the firearms industry. Zinke said, “What we’ve done is we’ve entered an agreement with the Flathead Valley Community College in college technologies to look at developing the curriculum that meets the industry’s requirements.” [All Things Considered, 1/16/12]

### **Voted Against Eliminating Limit on Sale of Certain Youth Nonresident Game Licenses**

In April 2011, Zinke voted against eliminating the limit on the number of “Class B-13” nonresident youth big game combination licenses that could be sold. The bill passed (46-1). [[HB 339, 4/02/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Authorizing a Nonresident Youth Bird Hunting License Discount**

In April 2009, Zinke voted against a bill, which would have authorized nonresident youth to hunt game and migratory birds at a discounted price. The bill passed (46-4). [[HB 480, 4/06/09](#)]

### **Voted Against Resolution That Supported Self Defense in National Parks**

In March 2009, Zinke voted against a Joint House Resolution that supported the updated regulation by the U.S. Department of Interior, which allowed, if the state law authorized, the possession of concealed firearms in national parks. The resolution passed (28-22). [[HJR 14, 3/30/09](#)]

### **Voted Against Creating a Nonresident College Student Discounted Game License**

In February 2009, Zinke voted against a bill that would have created a nonresident college student big game combination license for the same price as a Class AAA combination sports license. The bill passed (47-2). [[SB 185, 2/04/09](#)]

### **Believed “the Sale of Heavy Weapons... Should Be Banned for Public Use”**

In 2008, Zinke said, “heavy weapons and specialized military weapon systems should be banned for public use.” Zinke said, “I also believe that the sale of heavy weapons and specialized military weapon systems should be banned for public use.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Indicated Citizens Should be Allowed to Carry Concealed Guns**

In 2008, Zinke indicated that citizens should be allowed to carry concealed guns. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **But Did Not Believe In Concealed Weapons in Areas of High Security**

However, Zinke said he did not believe that concealed weapons should be allowed in areas of high security. Zinke said, “In most cases, I believe that in areas of high security, such as courtrooms, airports, and military bases, that concealed weapons should not be allowed.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Open to Background Checks on Gun Sales & Gun Shows**

In 2008, Zinke said he was “undecided” on whether background checks should be required on gun sales between private citizens and gun shows. [Project VoteSmart, 2008 [Political Courage Test](#)]

### **Open to Stronger State Restrictions on Guns**

In 2008, Zinke listed himself as “undecided” on stronger state restrictions on guns. [Project VoteSmart, 2008 [Political Courage Test](#)]

### **Said He “Strongly Support[ed] the Right to Bear Arms”**

In 2008, Zinke said, he “strongly support[ed] the right to bear arms for hunting and personal protection.” Zinke said, “I strongly support the right to bear arms for hunting and personal protection.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Undecided on Support of Restrictions in Place**

In 2008, Zinke indicated that he was undecided if he supported the restrictions and the levels of enforcement on the purchase and possession of guns. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## HEALTHCARE

- ✓ Zinke has been a vocal and unrelenting (even in the face of facts to the contrary) opponent of the Affordable Care Act, even saying: “let’s abandon Obamacare. It’s a train wreck.”; and “The ship is sinking.”
- ✓ The *Billings Gazette* noted as long as the ACA was in place “75,000 Montanans keep affordable care.”; and “...it’s not a failure. It has effectively reduced the health insurance gap...”; and “[Zinke] hop off the repeal bandwagon and stop threatening Montanans’ health coverage.” The paper also urged him to move on from his negative rhetoric, writing “except that it appears to be working – and working very well.” and “If that’s failure, let’s have more of it, Rep. Zinke.” The editorial concluded, “That’s what so frustrating about Daines and Zinke. You can have a difference of opinion. But they seem to have a difference of facts.”
- ✓ He voted to prohibit the creation of a health insurance exchange under the Affordable Care Act and voted in favor of legislation that would prohibit Montana from administering the health insurance purchase requirements of the Affordable Care Act.
- ✓ He continued to criticize the law after the Supreme Court struck down a challenge to it. The *Billings Gazette* urged him to “move on” and noted “Remember: lawmakers who want to repeal the ACA would still have government-funded health coverage without it.”
- ✓ He voted to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- ✓ He voted against a resolution to request a committee to study health care, even though 19% of Montanans lacked health insurance.
- ✓ He voted in favor of legislation that would eliminate language stating that it was “unlawful discriminatory practice” to discriminate solely on the basis of sex.

## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

### Zinke Voted to Override Veto of 2010 Healthcare Law Repeal & Block Planned Parenthood Funding for 1 Year

In February 2016, Zinke voted for: “Passage, over President Obama’s Jan. 8 2016, veto, of the bill that would repeal portions of the 2010 health care law and block federal funding for Planned Parenthood for one year. The bill would zero-out the law’s penalties for noncompliance with the law’s requirements for most individuals to obtain health coverage and employers to offer health insurance. The bill would scrap in 2018 the law’s Medicaid expansion, as well as subsidies to help individuals buy coverage through the insurance exchanges. It also would scrap certain taxes included in the law, including the tax on certain high-value employer-sponsored health insurance plans.” The override was rejected 241-186. [CQ, [2/2/16](#); H.R. 3762, Vote 53, [2/2/16](#)]

### Editorial: “Veto Means 75,000 Montanans Keep Affordable Care”

In 2016, the *Billings Gazette* published an editorial that asked, “What if President Obama had signed the Affordable Care Act repeal that Republican lawmakers sent to his desk last week? The 54,517 Montanans who enrolled to purchase Marketplace coverage as of last month would have to navigate next year’s market on their

own and without government subsidies. They would be, once again, at the mercy of the high-priced individual market. The 20,000 very low income Montanans who already signed up for Medicaid under the new HELP Act would become uninsured. Also, Montana would lose the millions of dollars in federal support that will pay 100 percent of Medicaid costs this year, and at least 90 percent in future years. There would no longer be a requirement for all who can afford it to share the cost of health care. Insurance companies would no longer be able to cover everyone who applied because many folks would opt out till they were already sick. The ACA ended the insurance industry practices of denying coverage for ‘pre-existing conditions.’ Reading the jubilant ‘repeal’ press releases from Montana’s Rep. Ryan Zinke and Sen. Steve Daines makes us wonder what state they are talking about.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [1/09/16](#)]

### **Editorial: “The Law’s Not Perfect, But It’s Not A Failure. It Has Effectively Reduced The Health Insurance Gap...”**

The editorial continued, “Zinke’s news release crowed that his vote ‘dismantles Obamacare by repealing the coverage subsidies, tax credits, and the Medicaid expansion provisions effective in 2018, paving the way for patient-centered health care solutions.’ ... Zinke should know that the Montana HELP Act already encourages patient-centered care. For example, all of the Medicaid enrollees referred to BCBS will receive a health risk assessment, Doran said. That will help determine the type of education and outreach the benefit administrator provides to each enrollee. Part of that outreach will be helping to connect individuals with primary care providers to keep them well, rather than waiting till they are ill... The law’s not perfect, but it’s not a failure. It has effectively reduced the health insurance gap in the only developed nation without universal coverage.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [1/09/16](#)]

### **Zinke on Obamacare: “The Ship Is Sinking”**

In 2016, *Newsmax* reported, “Congress is going to be ‘much more aggressive and on the offensive’ in repealing and replacing Obamacare this year, Rep. Ryan Zinke told Newsmax TV on Tuesday. ‘We know the ship is sinking,’ the Montana Republican told ‘Newsmax Now’ hosts John Bachman and Miranda Khan. ‘Before you abandon it completely, it’d be a good idea to get a life boat.’ ‘That life boat must be smaller. It must be more agile, flexible, and give the states more say in how to do it,’ he added. ‘What works in Washington, D.C., or New York City oftentimes doesn’t work out in Billings, Montana, or elsewhere in the country.’” [Newsmax.com, [1/05/16](#)]

### **Billings Gazette: “Zinke ...Hop Off the Repeal Bandwagon & Stop Threatening Montanans’ Health Coverage.”**

“In supporting repeal of the Affordable Care Act last week, Montana U.S. Sen. Steve Daines effectively voted to take away health insurance from thousands of low- and middle-income Montanans. [...] Earlier in the House, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke also voted for the bill to repeal Obamacare and bar the federal government from paying Planned Parenthood for any health care. [...] Daines and Zinke should take a cue from the HELP Act, hop off the repeal bandwagon and stop threatening Montanans’ health coverage.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [12/11/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Repeal Portions of the ACA & Block Funding, for 1 Year, for Planned Parenthood**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would repeal portions of the 2010 health care law, including: the requirements for most individuals to have health insurance and employers with more than 50 employees to offer it or face penalties, the 2.3 percent tax on the sale of medical devices, the tax on certain high-value employer-sponsored health insurance plans, and the Prevention and Public Health Fund. The measure also would block, for one year, federal funding for Planned Parenthood and would increase funding for community health centers by \$235 million in both fiscal 2016 and 2017.” The bill passed by a 240-189 vote. [CQ, [10/23/15](#); H.R. 3762, Vote 568, [10/23/15](#)]

### **Eliminated the ACA's Requirement to Purchase of Individual Health Care Policies & Most Companies to Provide Medical Insurance**

“Republicans rammed legislation through the House on Friday that would demolish major pillars of President Barack Obama’s health care law and halt Planned Parenthood’s federal payments. If the bill can surmount GOP divisions in the Senate and reach the White House, it faces one guaranteed fate — death by veto. [...] The legislation would eliminate the health law’s requirements that most people without employer-provided health coverage buy individual policies, and that most companies provide medical insurance. It would also eliminate the statute’s tax on medical devices and another on high-priced insurance policies that doesn’t take effect until 2018.” [AP, [10/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Require ACA Rules & Regs Be Subject to the Congressional Approval Process**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Smith, R-Mo., amendment that would require that rule and regulations under the Affordable Care Act to be subject to the congressional approval process established in the bill.” The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 242-167. [CQ, [7/28/15](#); H.Amdt.684 to H.R. 427, Vote 474, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said the ACA Was Faulty & Claimed Health Insurance Premiums Raised 35% & Part Of \$165B from Student Loans Used to Fund the Program**

“Ryan Zinke forecast ‘tough waters’ for the nation’s next year and a half at a town hall talk in Bigfork Tuesday night. Addressing a crowd of 60, the U.S. Rep. detailed two of his bills and the problem of government overreach before taking questions at Rising Mountain Assisted Living. [...] The congressman also zeroed in on the ‘Obamacare fiasco,’ labeling the system as faulty and oversold. He said health insurance premiums for the year had risen 35 percent and that part of the \$165 billion the federal government made from student loans was being used to fund the program.” [Flathead News Group, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Billings Gazette: “Ryan Zinke And Sen. Steve Daines Ought To Be Helping, Instead Of Talking Repeal [Of ACA].”**

“How many Montanans will gain health coverage through the 2015 HELP Act before the Legislature reconvenes in January 2017? 20,000? 40,000? More? Fewer? [...] Gov. Steve Bullock and U.S. Sen. Jon Tester must keep up their personal efforts to move the waiver process along expeditiously. U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Sen. Steve Daines ought to be helping, instead of talking repeal. Their constituents’ lives and health will benefit from Medicaid expansion.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [8/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board Created By The ACA, & Withdraw \$8.8B from the Prevention & Public Health Fund**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of a bill that would repeal the provisions of the 2010 health care overhaul that created the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), which is designed to recommend cost-cutting measures if Medicare spending exceeds a target growth rate. The cost of repealing IPAB would be offset by rescinding an estimated \$8.8 billion from the Prevention and Public Health Fund created under the 2010 health care overhaul.” The bill passed by 244-154. [CQ, [6/23/15](#), H.R. 1190, Vote 376, [6/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said “One-Size Fits All” for Health Care Would Not Work in Montana, Said He Was Optimistic About A Bi-Partisan Fix**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke says ‘one-size fits all’ for health care will not work in Montana and he is optimistic about a bi-partisan fix. Zinke talked about health care when he visited Riverstone Health Wednesday afternoon. He toured the facilities that receive some community health center funding. Zinke voted for a bill that helps Riverstone. He says the visit will give him some ideas on health care.” [KTVQ, [5/7/15](#)]

### **Zinke Announced Health Care Advisory Committee**

“Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke announced the formation of his Health Care Advisory Committee, a diverse group of doctors, administrators, advocates and other health care professionals. The group was formed

to provide on the ground intelligence, insight and recommendations to Rep. Zinke in the ongoing discussion of health care reform in America. ‘I’m thankful to have the leadership of Dr. Phil Cardan and the participation of more than 25 health care professionals and advocates from across the state,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘Right now Montana families and small businesses, as well as doctors, are forced to deal with the bad consequences of a hastily drafted healthcare law which nobody read before voting for. Premiums are going up, choices are dwindling, and the fees for small businesses are out of control. There has to be a better way. ObamaCare is a broken promise and even worse law, and I remain committed to helping craft solutions which put patients first by lowering costs and expanding access. This advisory committee will help guide that process by coming up with Montana made solutions.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke On ACA: “Premiums Are Going Up, Choices Are Dwindling, And The Fees For Small Businesses Are Out Of Control.”**

“Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke announced the formation of his Health Care Advisory Committee, a diverse group of doctors, administrators, advocates and other health care professionals. The group was formed to provide on the ground intelligence, insight and recommendations to Rep. Zinke in the ongoing discussion of health care reform in America. ‘I’m thankful to have the leadership of Dr. Phil Cardan and the participation of more than 25 health care professionals and advocates from across the state,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘Right now Montana families and small businesses, as well as doctors, are forced to deal with the bad consequences of a hastily drafted healthcare law which nobody read before voting for. Premiums are going up, choices are dwindling, and the fees for small businesses are out of control. There has to be a better way. ObamaCare is a broken promise and even worse law, and I remain committed to helping craft solutions which put patients first by lowering costs and expanding access. This advisory committee will help guide that process by coming up with Montana made solutions.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/2/15](#)]

### **Voted for Providing \$9.3B for Medical Research & Revamp Of The Drug And Medical Device Evaluation Process**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that “would provide \$9.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health and Food and Drug Administration over five years while revamping aspects of the FDA’s drug and medical device evaluation processes. The cost would be fully offset, and the measure also would reauthorize NIH for three years.” The bill passed with strong bipartisan support, 344 – 77, and then referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. [HR 6, [Vote #433](#), 7/10/15; CQ News, [7/10/15](#)]

### **Billings Gazette Told Zinke to Move on From His Anti-Obamacare Rhetoric**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke and Sen. Steve Daines: We get that you don’t like the Affordable Care Act, more commonly called ‘Obamacare.’ We understand that saying anything that could even remotely be construed as positive or anything less than unequivocal will get you branded a traitor, or worse, a Republican in Name Only. We get that shortly after the United States Supreme Court decision upholding the health care subsidies, all cameras were trained on politicians and their reactions. You saw your chance, concocted the sound bites, getting in a couple of endless digs at a law that would seem to help many Montanans. But politics is politics, as they say, and we have come to expect venom and vitriol from the right when it comes to the ACA. Rest assured, we have received your message — clearly. There is no misunderstanding. Now, it’s time to move along. That’s our message to you.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/6/15](#)]

### **Billings Gazette Responded to Zinke’s Call for Another Healthcare Solution, Saying, “Except That It Appears To Be Working — And Working Very Well.”**

“Beyond soothing the already overheated brains and emotions of twisted-up conservatives, what is all this talk of destroying Obamacare is really doing? What work is it accomplishing? Both seem to be spending plenty of time posturing and plotting for Obamacare’s demise and, in turn, less time is spent dealing with Montana issues. Zinke told the press shortly after the high court’s ruling, ‘We all agree there will need to be some level of help for folks who face difficult situations, but Obamacare simply does not work for the vast majority.’ Except that it appears to be working — and working very well. The New York Times recently

reported 15 million adults have received coverage because of the new law. In states where Medicaid has expanded, uninsured rates have plummeted. And, The Times also reported fewer health-related individual financial crises, lower premium rate growth and a slowdown of medical costs. If that's failure, let's have more of it, Rep. Zinke." [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/6/15](#)]

**Billings Gazette: "If That's Failure, Let's Have More Of It, Rep. Zinke."**

"Beyond soothing the already overheated brains and emotions of twisted-up conservatives, what is all this talk of destroying Obamacare is really doing? What work is it accomplishing? Both seem to be spending plenty of time posturing and plotting for Obamacare's demise and, in turn, less time is spent dealing with Montana issues. Zinke told the press shortly after the high court's ruling, 'We all agree there will need to be some level of help for folks who face difficult situations, but Obamacare simply does not work for the vast majority.' Except that it appears to be working — and working very well. The New York Times recently reported 15 million adults have received coverage because of the new law. In states where Medicaid has expanded, uninsured rates have plummeted. And, The Times also reported fewer health-related individual financial crises, lower premium rate growth and a slowdown of medical costs. If that's failure, let's have more of it, Rep. Zinke." [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/6/15](#)]

**Billings Gazette: "That's What So Frustrating About Daines And Zinke. You Can Have A Difference Of Opinion. But They Seem To Have A Difference Of Facts."**

"That's what so frustrating about Daines and Zinke. You can have a difference of opinion. But they seem to have a difference of facts. At some point, even hardliners have to admit their hope of failure has itself failed. The program is working — apparently well. That is not to say Congress couldn't have a pivotal part to play in fixing some of the kinks that are naturally bound to happen with such a monumental change. Instead of working toward repeal or dismantling, it's time to make the sensible adjustments and move on to other pressing issues." [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/6/15](#)]

**Voted For Repeal Of IPAB—Medicare Cost-Control Board—Which CBO Said Would Result In Higher Medicare Spending**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015. "The House easily passed a repeal of Obamacare's Independent Payment Advisory Board, with a handful of Democrats voting with Republicans against a part of the law aimed at checking the growth of Medicare spending. The Independent Payment Advisory Board has never been used. It consists of 15 members and was included in the law to control the rate of Medicare growth and to help the program come up with savings. The law said the board would make savings recommendations if Medicare spending was projected to exceed a certain target rate, but so far, spending hasn't grown fast enough to trigger the IPAB. The 244-154 vote occurred days before an expected Supreme Court ruling on the legality of Obamacare subsidies." The bill passed, 244-154. [HR 1190, [Vote #376](#), 6/23/15; National Journal, [6/23/15](#)]

**Bill Repealed Independent Payment Advisory Boards**

"H.R. 1190 would repeal the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that established the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) and that created a process by which the Board (or the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services) would be required under certain circumstances to modify the Medicare program to achieve specified savings." [Congressional Budget Office, [6/11/15](#)]

**Congressional Budget Office: Elimination Of Board Would "Probably Result In Higher Spending For The Medicare Program In The Years 2022 Through 2025"**

"CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1190 would not have any budgetary impact between 2015 and 2021, but would increase direct spending by \$7.1 billion over the 2022-2025 period. That estimate is extremely uncertain because it is not clear whether the mechanism for spending reductions under the IPAB authority will be triggered under current law for most of the next ten years; under CBO's current baseline projections such authority is projected to be triggered in 2025. However, given the uncertainty that surrounds those projections,

it is possible that such authority would be triggered in more than one of those years; taking into account that possibility, CBO estimates that repealing the IPAB provision of the ACA would probably result in higher spending for the Medicare program in the years 2022 through 2025 than would occur under current law. CBO's estimate represents the expected value of a broad range of possible effects of repealing the provision over that period." [Congressional Budget Office, [6/11/15](#)]

### **Bill Offset By Cuts To Prevention And Public Health Fund**

"The House easily passed a repeal of Obamacare's Independent Payment Advisory Board, with a handful of Democrats voting with Republicans against a part of the law aimed at checking the growth of Medicare spending. ... Although only 11 Democrats ended up voting for the repeal, others might have done so if the bill wasn't offset by cuts to Obamacare's Prevention and Public Health Fund." [National Journal, [6/23/15](#)]

### **Fund Trained More Primary-Care Doctors**

"The graph that my subconscious came up with charted all the cuts to the Prevention and Public Health Fund. That's a \$15 billion Obamacare program initially meant to — you guessed it — fund prevention and public health activities. This has included everything from training more primary-care doctors to supporting healthy corner stores. The funds are not earmarked for any specific activity. Instead, they get doled out each year. And that has made the Prevention Fund a prime target for legislators looking to pay for other health-care activities." [Washington Post, [4/19/13](#)]

### **Billings Gazette to Zinke: "It's About Time To Admit Defeat, Acknowledge The Program Works, & Move on"**

"Speaking of which: It would be wonderful if the only problem that needed attention was Obamacare. But America needs a budget, transportation bills, serious consideration of military resources and continued focus on job growth. If the constant stream of anti-Obamacare quotations are nothing more than pandering to already roiled constituents, then two-thirds of our representation in Congress is a waste of time, angering those who have been good and upset about the ACA for months. If for some naive-but-sincere reason these Obamacare quotations from Daines and Zinke are sincere, then it's about time to admit defeat, acknowledge the program works, and move on to something that's truly broken." [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Repeal the 2.3% Medical Device Tax Included In The 2010 Health Care Overhaul**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: "Passage of the bill (HR 160) that would repeal the 2.3% medical device tax included in the 2010 health care overhaul." The bill passed by a vote of 280-140. [CQ, [6/18/15](#); H.R. 160, Vote 375, [6/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said "Jobs" Amd "Making Sure We Have An Economy That Moves Forward" Better Route Than Medicaid Expansion**

[00:14:18] When asked about Medicaid expansion in the State Legislature, Zinke said, "Medicare, One is I think always the better route is jobs. And making sure we have an economy that moves forward, rather than establishing more dependence on the public. The Medicaid program was never intended to be the end all." ANNCR: "It was supposed to be a stop gap measure." [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [4/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Predicted Supreme Court Would Rule Obamacare Subsidies Unlawful Without State Exchange, Claimed Congress Would Have To "Construct A Lifeboat" To Fix It**

When asked about Medicaid expansion in the State Legislature, Zinke said, "For those, the poorest of the families that have no other options. You know, Obamacare we are looking at and I think the court is actually going to rule 5-4 that unless you have a state exchange the federal subsidy of Obamacare is unlawful. That's gonna take the Obamacare itself, which is a sinking ship, it's probably going to put a torpedo in the side. The challenge to congress is to act in a form of a lifeboat. There is over 20,000 families in Montana that got a letter, 'your current insurance is no longer valid.' Remeber if you like your insurance you can keep it? If you like your

doctor you can keep it? You remember that one? [...] Congress is going to have to construct a lifeboat that honors that.” [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [4/3/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Repeal Of Medical Device Tax Under The Affordable Care Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for repealing the medical device tax implemented under the Affordable Care Act. “The House defied a White House veto threat and voted Thursday to abolish a tax on medical device makers as a group of Democrats uncharacteristically joined Republicans in moving to kill part of President Barack Obama’s health care law ... The Republican-led House has voted more than 50 times since 2011 to void all or part of Obama’s health care overhaul, usually along party lines.” The bill passed 280 to 140. [HR 160, [Vote #375](#), 6/18/15; Associated Press, [6/18/15](#)]

#### **Zinke “Generally” Supported Community Health Center Funding**

“The Affordable Care Act is the reason why RiverStone was able to provide more treatment, improve their patients’ health, train more doctors, recruit professional staff and subsidize more care for low-income Montanans since 2011. The provisions of the ACA that boosted community health centers across America sunset when the federal fiscal year ends on Sept. 30. Unless Congress renews this primary care funding, 1,300 nonprofit community health centers nationwide, including 16 in Montana, will no longer have the resources to serve all of the uninsured and underinsured patients. [...] Asked if Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., would vote to reauthorize the trust fund, his spokeswoman said there isn’t a bill yet and Zinke would have to see the bill first, but he supports community health center funding generally.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [3/14/15](#)]

#### **Zinke: “As Congress Works Toward Real Health Care Reform, I Will Work To Ensure Rural Health Care Continues To Be Funded.”**

On Facebook, Zinke said: “For many Montanans, access to community health centers is a matter of life or death. Assisting community health care organizations, particularly rural health care, has enjoyed bipartisan support for years. As Congress works toward real health care reform, I will work to ensure rural health care continues to be funded.” [Facebook, Congressman Ryan Zinke, [3/13/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Said Congress Select Committee Should Study an ACA Replacement**

“Congress should form a select committee to study and enact whatever replaces the Affordable Care Act, because ‘Congress doesn’t have the expertise to fix it. We will have to work with the administration to figure out a better way. This is a big lift, and I think it’s coming.” [Billings Gazette, [3/13/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted for Disqualifying Volunteer Firefighters & Emergency Responders from Being FT Employees Under ACA**

On March 17, 2015, Zinke voted for the Ryan, R-Wis., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would clarify that qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer do not count as employee hours of service for the purposes of the employer mandate under the 2010 health care overhaul. The motion agreed to by a vote of 415-0. [CQ, Accessed [3/17/15](#); H.R. 1191, Vote 118, [3/17/15](#)]

#### **Voted For A Full Repeal Of The ACA**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for repealing the ACA. “The House voted ... to abolish the 2010 health care law in Congress’ first repeal vote of the year ... The House has voted more than 50 times to roll back all or portions of the law.” The bill passed 239 to 186. [HR 596, [Vote #58](#), 2/03/15; CQ News, [2/03/15](#)]

#### **Vote Was Republicans 56<sup>th</sup> Attempt To Repeal Affordable Care Act**

“In Tuesday’s repeal effort by House Republicans — their first of this Congress and their 56th overall — it became clear that they had succeeded at one thing: They had bored even themselves into a slumber.” [Washington Post, [2/03/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Motion To Prohibit 56<sup>th</sup> Republican Vote To Repeal The ACA**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would prohibit Republicans 56th vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The motion to recommit failed, 179 to 241. [HR 596, [Vote #57](#), 2/03/15; Democratic Leadership Summary, [2/03/15](#)]

### **Voted For Increasing Definition Of Full-Time From 30 Hours To 40 Hours Under Affordable Care Act**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that would lengthen the Affordable Care Act's definition of a full-time work week to 40 hours from 30 hours. "The House will vote again on Thursday to lengthen Obamacare's full-time workweek definition to 40 hours, but the Senate has work to do before it can hope to get its first anti-Obamacare bill to the president's desk." The bill passed, 252-172. [HR 30, [Vote #14](#), 1/08/15; Politico, [1/08/15](#)]

### **Bill Would Increase Deficit By \$53.2 Billion And Cut Healthcare For About 1 Million Workers**

"The independent Congressional Budget Office said Wednesday that the House's bill would add \$53.2 billion to the deficit from 2015 to 2025. That's because fewer businesses would pay fines and because some of the employees who would have been covered at work will instead get subsidies to buy plans on the Obamacare exchanges. The CBO estimated that about 1 million people would lose their work-based coverage, a fact that Democrats intend to highlight." [Politico, [1/08/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called Obamacare a "Sinking Ship"**

In 2014, Zinke said of Obamacare that the consensus from experts he claimed he listened to "is that it is a sinking ship that will be in Davy Jones' locker soon." However, Zinke said, "you don't just jump in the ocean," but need to transfer to a more stable vessel. [Daily Inter Lake, 10/18/14]

### **Said That he Had "to Respect Senator Cruz" for ACA Filibuster**

During an October 2013 interview, Zinke said he had "to respect Senator Cruz" when referring to his filibuster of a federal appropriations bill because it contained funding for the Affordable Care Act. Zinke said, "Well, you know, I have to respect Senator Cruz. I mean, he did exactly what he said, and he, you know, I think, understands that Obamacare is terrible. I think, I think, the play is, what are we going to do about it?" [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Obamacare "is Reckless"**

On April 21, 2014, Zinke tweeted that Obamacare "is reckless." Zinke tweeted, "Obamacare as written is reckless and will lead to higher costs with less medical care." [Twitter, [4/21/14](#)]

### **In Montana, Repeal Would Mean:**

- Drug costs for over 10,000 seniors would have been \$16.3 million higher.
- 12,000 young adults would not have had coverage through their parents' plans.
- 140,400 women and 100,400 seniors and people with disabilities would not have received free preventive care.
- 25,400 people would not have received \$2.6 million in rebates from their insurance companies.
- Over 186,000 people would not have access to quality, dependable health insurance coverage. [Energy and Commerce committee, [May 2013](#)]

### **Zinke said "Obamacare Has Very Little to Do, Unfortunately, About Care"**

In March 2014, Zinke said that "Obamacare has very little to do, unfortunately, about care" but created "an enormous amount of overhead and burden." Zinke said, "And going to Obama health care, you know the parking lot, why is it full, during the day? It isn't patients. It's compliance and billing. And the Obamacare has very little to do, unfortunately, about care. It has to do with insurance. And billing. And in Montana, we're rural, what's at risk is the family practitioners, particularly in the smaller communities, and nothing in Obamacare package puts more of the nurses Pas and practitioners in the field. What it does do is create an

enormous amount of overhead and burden, without any mindful consideration to [inaudible].” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Said “Let’s Abandon Obamacare”**

In February 2014, in remarks after he filed campaign papers, Zinke said “let’s abandon Obamacare.” Zinke said, “First, let’s abandon Obamacare. It’s a train wreck, and we need to empower the states to find the right fix to that lets you keep your doctor and insurance.” [Hungry Horse News, 2/10/14]

### **Tweeted “We Need to Abandon Obamacare”**

On January 28, 2014, Zinke tweeted, “we need to abandon Obamacare, give states the ability to focus on the right health care solutions.” [Twitter, [1/28/14](#)]

### **Zinke: “Six People Show Up on the First Day” of the ACA**

In January 2014, at a Meet and Greet in Jorgenson’s Inn in Helena, Zinke implied that the Affordable Care Act was not working by saying only “six people show[ed] up on the first day.” Zinke said, “You know, the government’s spending a billion dollars in three years, to radically change our health care system. And what happened? Six people show up the first day. Six people. And we’ve all heard it: ‘if you want to keep your health care insurance, you’ll be able to keep it. Want to keep your doctor? You’ll be able to keep it.’ That was a lie.” [YouTube, [1/28/14](#)]

### **Voted to Prohibit of Health Insurance Exchange under the ACA**

In February 2011, Zinke voted to prohibit the creation of a health insurance exchange under the Affordable Care Act. The vote passed (28-22). [[SB 228, 2/21/11](#)]

### **Voted to Prohibit State from Requiring Individuals to Purchase Health Insurance**

In January 2011, Zinke voted in favor of legislation that would prohibit the state of Montana from administering health insurance purchase requirements of the Affordable Care Act, including requiring individuals to purchase health insurance. The bill passed (29-21). [[SB 125, 1/27/11](#)]

## **ACA SUPREME COURT RULING**

### ***Billings Gazette: Zinke And Other Republican’s Who Continue To Criticize The ACA After The Supreme Court Ruling, Should “Move On.”***

“The U.S. Supreme Court decision Thursday is a victory for 41,766 Montanans whose private health insurance is subsidized through the Affordable Care Act. These are Montana men, women and children who otherwise wouldn’t have health coverage or who would be paying much more for it. [...] Republicans said the ruling wouldn’t end the political fight. It’s disappointing that Montana’s two Republican members of Congress, Ryan Zinke and Steve Daines, are among those who continued to criticize the Affordable Care Act. ‘Obamacare simply does not work for the vast majority,’ Zinke said in a statement immediately after the court ruling was announced. In the five years since the ACA became law, Republicans have not put forward a plan that would cover as many Americans. Remember: Lawmakers who want to repeal the ACA would still have government-funded health coverage without it. [...] Soon, all of Montana’s lowest-income residents should be eligible for Medicaid as provided under the ACA and accepted by the 2015 Montana Legislature. The ACA has been upheld twice by the nation’s highest court. This should be the end to litigation. Instead of suing, lawmakers, health care leaders and other Americans ought to work together to improve the quality of care throughout our state and nation. Rather than looking for Republican or Democratic points, let’s insist on winning affordable access to effective, efficient health care for all Americans. The ACA’s legality has been decided. Time to move on.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [6/28/15](#)]

**Billings Gazette: “Remember: Lawmakers Who Want To Repeal The ACA Would Still Have Government-Funded Health Coverage Without It.”**

“The U.S. Supreme Court decision Thursday is a victory for 41,766 Montanans whose private health insurance is subsidized through the Affordable Care Act. These are Montana men, women and children who otherwise wouldn’t have health coverage or who would be paying much more for it. [...] Republicans said the ruling wouldn’t end the political fight. It’s disappointing that Montana’s two Republican members of Congress, Ryan Zinke and Steve Daines, are among those who continued to criticize the Affordable Care Act. ‘Obamacare simply does not work for the vast majority,’ Zinke said in a statement immediately after the court ruling was announced. In the five years since the ACA became law, Republicans have not put forward a plan that would cover as many Americans. Remember: Lawmakers who want to repeal the ACA would still have government-funded health coverage without it. [...] Soon, all of Montana’s lowest-income residents should be eligible for Medicaid as provided under the ACA and accepted by the 2015 Montana Legislature. The ACA has been upheld twice by the nation’s highest court. This should be the end to litigation. Instead of suing, lawmakers, health care leaders and other Americans ought to work together to improve the quality of care throughout our state and nation. Rather than looking for Republican or Democratic points, let’s insist on winning affordable access to effective, efficient health care for all Americans. The ACA’s legality has been decided. Time to move on.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [6/28/15](#)]

**Zinke: “We All Agree There Will Need To Be Some Level Of Help For Folks Who Face Difficult Situations, But Obamacare Simply Does Not Work For The Vast Majority.”**

“In a 6-3 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the subsidies that 41,766 Montanans use to pay for their health insurance, focusing on the law’s intent rather than sloppy wording in the reform legislation. [...] Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., and Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., did not address the ruling directly, but spoke instead about the health care law. ‘Taking care of our neighbors and staying healthy should not be a partisan issue,’ Zinke said in a statement. ‘We all agree there will need to be some level of help for folks who face difficult situations, but Obamacare simply does not work for the vast majority.’ [Missoulian, [6/25/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I Urge Them [POTUS & Reid] To Come To The Table. Let’s Work Together On Health Care Solutions.”**

“Montana politicians react to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to reject a challenge to the reach of the Obama health care law. As expected, Democrats and Republicans have opposing views. [...] The following statement is from Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘American families deserve a health care system that works; and that means it has to be affordable and accessible, while still preserving a high quality of care and innovation. Earlier this month, we learned that the major health insurance companies in Montana are raising rates on some of their ObamaCare plans. Taking care of our neighbors and staying healthy should not be a partisan issue. We all agree there will need to be some level of help for folks who face difficult situations, but ObamaCare simply does not work for the vast majority. For too long Senator Harry Reid has threatened to block any bipartisan health care reform, and President Obama has maintained he will veto any law to repeal or even roll back the most flawed parts of ObamaCare. I urge them to come to the table. Let’s work together on health care solutions that truly lower costs, expand coverage, and protect the doctor-patient relationship. It’s what Montana families deserve.’ [KTVH, [6/25/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Earlier This Month, We Learned That The Major Health Insurance Companies In Montana Are Raising Rates On Some Of Their Obamacare Plans.”**

“Montana politicians react to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to reject a challenge to the reach of the Obama health care law. As expected, Democrats and Republicans have opposing views. [...] The following statement is from Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘American families deserve a health care system that works; and that means it has to be affordable and accessible, while still preserving a high quality of care and innovation. Earlier this month, we learned that the major health insurance companies in Montana are raising rates on some of their ObamaCare plans. Taking care of our neighbors and staying healthy should not be a partisan issue. We all agree there will

need to be some level of help for folks who face difficult situations, but ObamaCare simply does not work for the vast majority. For too long Senator Harry Reid has threatened to block any bipartisan health care reform, and President Obama has maintained he will veto any law to repeal or even roll back the most flawed parts of ObamaCare. I urge them to come to the table. Let's work together on health care solutions that truly lower costs, expand coverage, and protect the doctor-patient relationship. It's what Montana families deserve." [KTVH, [6/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Predicted A Supreme Court Ruling Against Affordable Care Act, But Congress Said Must Act To Replace The Law**

"U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., predicted a Supreme Court ruling against Affordable Care Act, but said Wednesday that government isn't getting out of health care reform and Congress must act. 'I think the Supreme Court will, these are my thoughts, will rule that a federal subsidy is unlawful, but they will also give time for a legislative remedy because the Supreme Court cannot order the Congress to do it,' Zinke told The Gazette. 'The Congress will take it up, as they should, because it is a problem.'" [Billings Gazette, [5/7/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Congress Will Have To Come Up With A New Health Care Reform Law To Replace ACA, Said New Plan Would Have To Look At "Quality Of Health Care," "Access To Health Care" And "Affordability."**

"A Supreme Court ruling siding with ACA challengers would cancel subsidies for millions of Americans in 34 states, including Montana. Zinke said he expects the challengers will prevail. Zinke said Congress will have to come up with a new health care reform law to replace ACA. He doesn't see how that's easily done, given that American health care constitutes a sixth of the U.S. economy and five different House committees can claim a share of health care law. 'I'm hoping there's common ground to go forward with what's necessary, and that's three things. You got to look at quality of health care, to got to look at access to health care and you have to look at affordability,' Zinke said. 'And what makes sense in Washington, D.C., does not make sense in Montana, or Forsyth, or a lot of or smaller hospitals.'" [Billings Gazette, [5/7/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Giving Block Grants To States To Subsidize Health Care**

"Zinke said he favors giving block grants to states to subsidize health care. But Zinke had to put his opposition aside last month when a vote came up to renew current Affordable Care Act programs. Community health centers like RiverStone, which receives a third of its funding from the federal government, expected much of their funding to end by September without congressional action. Health centers were going to lose the federal program that helps pay for doctors in residency, among other things." [Billings Gazette, [5/7/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "Supreme Court Is Going To Rule That Federal Subsidies Are Unlawful Unless You Have A State Exchange."**

"A question came up about ObamaCare or the Affordable Care Act. Zinke said the government needs to offer a subsidy and he expects a change after the Supreme court ruling. 'I think the Supreme Court is going to rule that federal subsidies are unlawful unless you have a state exchange,' Zinke said. 'The existing ObamaCare is a ship that's sinking. I think this will put a torpedo in its side.'" [KTVQ, [3/15/15](#)]

## **GRANTS**

### **Zinke Voted to Reauthorize Federal Grants for Trauma Care Programs Through 2020**

On March 16, 2015, Zinke voted for the Burgess, R-Texas, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would reauthorize \$100 million a year through fiscal 2020 for the Trauma Care Center Grant and Trauma Service Availability Grant programs. The measure would clarify which trauma centers may receive grants, specifying that they be available to qualified public, nonprofit and various Indian tribal trauma centers and would also modify requirements for those seeking offsets for uncompensated care. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 389-10. [CQ, Accessed [3/17/15](#); H.R. 647, Vote 113, [3/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Reauthorize Trauma Care Systems Planning Grants Through Fiscal 2020**

On March 16, 2015, Zinke voted for the Burgess, R-Texas, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would reauthorize \$24 million a year through fiscal 2020 the Trauma Care Systems Planning Grants program, which supports state development of trauma systems, along with certain pilot projects to implement and assess the regionalized emergency care model, including grants for improving trauma care and access to high-quality trauma care. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 382-15. [CQ, Accessed [3/17/15](#); H.R. 648, Vote 114, [3/16/15](#)]

## **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

### **Voted for Amendment to Prohibit Funds for Superseding State Law on Medical Marijuana**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that “prohibits the use of funds in the bill to supersede State law in those States that have legalized the use of medical marijuana.” The amendment passed 242 to 186. [HR 2578, [Vote #283](#), 6/03/15]

### **Said He Would Have Given Marijuana to Mother Who Died of Cancer**

In 2011, when speaking of his mother who died of cancer, Zinke said “if I had marijuana available to me, I know I would have given it to her.” Zinke said, “My mom died of cancer, and it was a terrible death. And if I had marijuana available to me, I know I would have given it to her... But those people who are abusing the system, I would look for property elsewhere.” [Havre Daily News, [3/08/11](#)]

## **MEDICAL RESEARCH**

### **Zinke Voted to Reauthorize the National Cord Blood Inventory**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Pitts, R-Pa., motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would reauthorize the National Cord Blood Inventory and the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation programs through Sept. 30, 2020, authorizing \$23 million and \$30 million for the programs, respectively. As amended by the Senate, the bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to review the use of adult stem cells and birthing tissues for new therapies, to maximize the number of cord blood units available for transplant and to consider how many units a cord blood bank has contributed in the previous year. HHS is required to review and report to Congress on the use of stem cell science to develop new therapies for patients. Further, the bill requires HHS to issue a determinations on including of peripheral blood stem cells and umbilical cord blood under human organ donation regulation.” The motion was agreed to by a 421-0 vote. [CQ, [12/16/15](#); H.R. 2820, Vote 695, [12/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Change Funding For New NIH And Cures Innovation Fund From Mandatory To Discretionary Funding**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Brat, R-Va., amendment that would change the mandatory funding for the new National Institute of Health and Cures Innovation Fund to an authorization of discretionary appropriations.” The amendment was rejected by 141-281. [CQ, [7/10/15](#), H.Amdt.656 to H.R. 6, Vote 431, [7/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Striking NIH & FDA Policy Language Included In Labor-HHS-Education & Agriculture Approps Bills**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Lee, R-Calif., amendment that would strike language that applies any policy riders included in annual Labor-HHS-Education and Agriculture appropriations bills to National Institutes of Health (NIH) funds and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) funds provided by the bill.” The amendment was rejected by 176-245. [CQ, [7/10/15](#), H.Amdt.658 to H.R.6, Vote 432, [7/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Accelerate Development of Disease Cures by Modifying Federal Medical Research Processes**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of a bill that would modify current federal processes involving medical research, developing drugs and other treatments, and testing and approving those drugs and treatments in an effort to accelerate the development and delivery of cures to diseases and medical conditions. It would also reauthorize the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for three years and includes numerous initiatives to promote medical research and attract young scientists, and it reauthorizes Food and Drug Administration (FDA) activities for five years and modifies elements of FDA’s drug and medical device review and approval process to accelerate the approval and distribution of new drugs and medical devices for diseases and conditions that don’t currently have treatments. It would provide \$9.3 billion in fully offset mandatory spending for a five-year ‘Innovation Fund’ to provide additional funding to the two agencies, with NIH to receive \$1.75 billion a year for biomedical research and the FDA to receive \$110 million a year for Cures development activities.” The bill passed by 344-77. [CQ, [7/10/15](#), H.R.6, Vote 433, [7/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Authorize Funds for Agencies that Support Scientific Research, Industrial Innovation, & Educational Activities**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 271) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 1806) that would authorize funds for agencies that support scientific research, industrial innovation and certain educational activities, the fiscal 2016 legislative branch appropriations bill (HR 2250), and the bill (HR 2353) that would extend the authorization for surface transportation for two months, through July 31, 2015.” The motion was agreed to by a 242-179 vote. [CQ, [5/19/15](#); H. Res. 271, Vote 243, [5/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Establish Republican-Appointed STEM Education Advisory Panel**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Griffith, R-Va., amendment that would provide for the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader to appoint members of the STEM Education Advisory Panel that would be established under the bill and an advisory committee that the bill would direct to be established to review and report on progress by the Energy Department on a carbon capture and sequestration research program.” The amendment passed by 234-183. [CQ, [5/20/15](#), H.Amdt.248 to H.R. 1806, Vote 253, [5/20/15](#)]

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Zinke Voted to Require States Submit Info on HC Providers Terminated from the State’s Medicaid or CHIP**

In March 2016, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would require states to submit to the Health and Human Services Department certain information, including name, specialty, social security number and reason for termination, about health care providers terminated from the state’s Medicaid program or its Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) because of fraud or other reasons. The bill would require the department, if it determines appropriate, to include these terminated providers in its termination notification database. Federal CHIP and Medicaid funds could not be distributed to any provider 60 days after they have been added to the database. As amended, the bill would require states to publish online a directory of Medicaid providers reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis or through a primary-care case management system during the preceding 12 months.” The bill passed by a vote of 406-0. [CQ, [3/2/16](#); H.R. 3716, Vote 105, [3/2/16](#)]

### **Zinke Signed Letter Which Urged Speaker Boehner To Bring Up A Vote On H.R. 160, The Protect Medical Innovation Act**

“Today, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21), Freshman Representative to the Policy Committee, led a bipartisan group of freshmen lawmakers in sending a letter to Speaker John Boehner (R-OH-08) urging him to bring H.R. 160, the Protect Medical Innovation Act, up for a vote in the House.” Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Rep. Stefanik, Press Release, [3/31/15](#)]

### **Voted for Reauthorizing CHIP & Reforming Medicare Fee Payments for Doctors**

In March 2015, Zinke voted for a bill to provide permanent solution for paying doctors that treat Medicare patients and reauthorize the CHIP program for an additional two years. “The Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved sweeping changes in the way Medicare pays doctors, clearing the bill for President Obama and resolving an issue that has bedeviled Congress and the Medicare program for more than a decade. The 92-to-8 vote in the Senate, following passage in the House last month by a vote of 392 to 37, was a major success for Republicans, who devised a solution to a complex policy problem that had frustrated lawmakers of both parties. Mr. Obama has endorsed the bill, saying it ‘could help slow health care cost growth.’ The bill, drafted in the House in negotiations between Speaker John A. Boehner and Representative Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader, also extends the Children’s Health Insurance Program for two years, through 2017. Without action by Congress, doctors would have faced a 21 percent cut in Medicare fees.” The bill passed, 392 to 37. [HR 2, [Vote #144](#), 3/26/15; NY Times, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Protecting Access To Rural Therapy Services Act**

“Reps. Kristi Noem (R-SD), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), and Ryan Zinke (R-MT) today introduced legislation to better preserve health care services in rural communities. The Protecting Access to Rural Therapy Services (PARTS) Act would ensure patients in rural America have access to a full range of outpatient therapeutic services in their own community’s hospital.” [Office of Cong. Cramer, Press Release, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said PARTS Act “Helps Rural Health Care Facilities Provide A Wide Range Of Services To Patients In A Safe And Professional Manner.”**

Zinke said, “If ObamaCare has taught us anything, it’s that a one-size-fits-all model does not work, especially in health care. Access to high-quality care is critical for everyone; but in rural America, the challenges patients face accessing care are different than they are in the inner city. I’m proud to introduce the PARTS Act because it will lead to Montanans receiving better care and it helps rural health care facilities provide a wide range of services to patients in a safe and professional manner.” [Office of Cong. Cramer, Press Release, [3/25/15](#)]

### **Suggested More Regionally Based Health Care Programs**

In March 2013, Zinke suggested more regional based health care programs that “look at care and not billing.” Zinke said, “One size doesn’t fit all, especially in rural areas. What works in New York doesn’t work here.” [Sidney Herald, 3/11/14]

### **Changed Vote on Health Insurance Purchase Requirement Referendum**

In 2011, Zinke changed his vote on a bill that would put a referendum on the ballot to prohibit the state from mandating health insurance purchase. Originally, Zinke voted against the legislation, however, after amendments from the House that excluded the Montana university system from this prohibition, he voted in favor. The bill passed (28-22). [[SB 418](#), [4/18/11](#)]

### **Voted to Allow Actuarial Standards Based on Gender for Insurance**

In April 2011, Zinke voted in favor of legislation, which stated, “it is not a violation of the prohibition against sex discrimination in this section for a person to use industry approved actuarial standards based on sex in establishing insurance rates.” The bill passed (27-23). [[HB 283](#), [4/11/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Studying Health Care Workforce**

In April 2011, Zinke voted against a Senate Joint Resolution that would request an interim study of health care workforce needs and strategies to meet those needs. The resolution noted that 54 of Montana’s 56 counties had health professional shortages areas. The resolution passed (35-14). [[SJR 18](#), [4/05/11](#)]

### **Voted Against a Bill Requiring Midwives to Disclose if They Had Malpractice Insurance**

In January 2011, Zinke voted against legislation that would have required midwives to disclose whether they have malpractice or negligence insurance coverage prior to providing care. The bill passed (39-10). [[SB 23](#), [1/18/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Resolution to Study Additional Services for Developmentally Disabled**

In April 2009, Zinke voted against a House Joint Resolution to request an interim committee to study the development of additional community services for Montanans with developmental disabilities. The resolution passed (29-21). [[HJR 39, 4/24/09](#)]

### **Voted Against Establishing a Grant Program for EMS Providers**

In April 2009, Zinke voted against a House bill, which would have established a grant program for emergency medical service providers. The bill passed (35-14). [[HB 85, 4/22/09](#)]

### **Voted Against Resolution to Study Health Care**

In April 2009, Zinke voted against a Senate Joint Resolution to request an interim committee to study matters related to health care. The bill passed (36-14). [[SJR 35, 4/17/09](#)]

### **At Time, 19% of Montanans Lacked Health Insurance Coverage**

According to SJR 35, 19 percent of the Montana population lacked health insurance coverage. [[SJR 35, 4/17/09](#)]

### **Voted in Favor of Increasing Funding for Insure Montana**

In April 2009, Zinke voted in favor of a House bill that would increase the funding for the Insure Montana program by \$6 million over two years. Insure Montana, created in 2005, provided state tax credits and subsidies to help businesses with two to nine employees afford group health insurance. The bill passed (36-14). [[HB 258, 4/15/09](#)]

### **Voted Against Resolution to Study Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**

In April 2009, Zinke voted against a Senate Joint Resolution to establish an interim committee to study the effects of prenatal drug use on children born to mothers who use illegal drugs during pregnancy. The resolution passed (45-5). [[SJR 32, 4/06/09](#)]

### **Voted to Repeal Unisex Insurance Law Provisions**

In February 2009, Zinke voted in favor of legislation that would repeal unisex insurance law provisions. The legislation wanted to eliminate language stating that it was “unlawful discriminatory practice” to discriminate solely on the basis of sex. The bill passed (27-23). [[SB 142, 2/16/09](#)]

### **Supported Limiting Damages that Could Be Awarded in Medical Malpractice**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support to limit damages that could be awarded in medical malpractice lawsuits. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Legalizing Physician Assisted Suicide**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for the legalization of physician assisted suicide in Montana. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Requiring Hospitals to Release Reports on Infections**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support to require hospitals and labs to release reports on infections that were a risk to public health while maintaining patient confidentiality. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Allowing Patients to Sue Their HMOs**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support to allow patients to sue their HMOs. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Citizen Access to Health Care**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support that “citizens have access to basic health care through managed care, insurance reforms, or state-funded care where necessary.” Zinke said, “I support providing financial incentives to maintain affordable private health insurance through caps on medical malpractice and through group rates. I

do not believe the government can provide health insurance better than the market.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## IMMIGRATION & BORDER ISSUES

- ✓ Zinke has been an ardent opponent of immigration, as well, frequently citing national security and terrorism concerns.
- ✓ He criticized U.S. policy as “nonsensical, it promotes people cheating,” and said he opposed amnesty, but supported earned citizenship over time.
- ✓ He has frequently arguing for building a fence on the southern border, but wanted the Montana border to continue to have 24-hour operation. He even argued the board needed to be secured before he would support immigration reform – citing fear of ISIS & al-Qaida.
- ✓ He voted to deport undocumented families and DREAMers, and said immigrants must speak English.
- ✓ He claimed an increasing number of illegal immigrants were crossing the northern border.
- ✓ He proposed the Repeal Real ID Act, but in 2008 he was undecided if Montana should participate in the program.
- ✓ He voted to block certain law enforcement grants from “sanctuary” state and local governments. The bill was labeled “The Donald Trump Act.” In the state Senate, he also voted to punish local governments if they did not enforce federal immigration laws.
- ✓ ...BUT he supported allowing undocumented immigrants to serve in the Armed Forces.
- ✓ ...BUT he supported work visas for undocumented immigrants.

### **Zinke: “Our Policy, As A Country, Is Nonsensical, It Promotes People Cheating”**

“00:06:12 CHARLES: Now, I am not happy with the Republican Party and definitely not the Democrat Party, but these boarders, these open boarders, that they have allowed to happen is one of the biggest security hazards in our country. We don’t know who or what’s in there. It could be criminal elements that are coming through. What are you going to do to support this? Closing these boarders. 00:06:38 ZINKE: Well I agree. I hasn’t been this administration, all President Obama’s fault, although he is following and has been following the law. But you’re right, this has been, this has been a long time coming. And our southern border is different than our northern border. Our southern border is now a nexus between an immigration issue and national security. I mean if kids can come across the border, so can ISIS and Al Qaida, and weapons of mass destruction. That’s clear. The bill we passed, it provides more money on it, and I’m an advocate for offense. And you know, we’re a great county that build the Panama Canal in the 19th century, I mean we’re up for offense in the 21st. So I think offense in my experience, when I was stationed in San Diego, that offense is effective. And I do think we need offense. But we also need an immigration policy that makes sense. Our policy, as a country, is nonsensical, it promotes people cheating and if you did things right, wait in line. I think there has to be a reward to follow the law. And right now you get. It’s almost a disincentive to follow the law because other people are passing you and just come across.” [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [7/31/15](#)] (AUDIO)

### **Opposed Amnesty But Supported Earned Citizenship Over Time**

At a March 2014 Republican primary debate, Zinke said “I don’t believe in amnesty, but I do believe in earned citizenship through time.” Zinke said, “I don’t believe in amnesty, but I do believe in earned citizenship through time. If you serve your country, then you’re in the front of the line, because you deserve it. Earned citizenship? Yeah, if you pay your taxes over the period of time, you’re not a liability, you don’t interfere with the Social Security, there’s a difference between earned and unearned.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Train State Employees to Enforce Federal Immigration Laws**

In 2009, Zinke voted to have the state train state employees and local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws. [SB 381, [2/25/09](#)]

## **BUILD A FENCE**

### **Zinke Criticized Not “Build[ing] a Fence in Our Own Backyard”**



**Ryan Zinke** @RyanZinke · Jan 12

we walked on the moon four decades ago.  
Maybe we can build a fence in our own  
back yard before he leaves office

[Twitter, @RyanZinke, 1/12/16]

### **Zinke: “We Need To Secure Our Southern Border... It’s A Sieve.” Called for a Fence**

In July 2015 Zinke was interviewed on CNN. “KEILAR: We heard from Senator Risch yesterday something very alarming. He told me in his estimation that at some point one of these plots will be successfully carried out here in the U.S. Do you agree with that? ZINKE: Well, unfortunately, I do. But there’s action we can take. We need to secure our southern border. Clearly, the southern border is now a nexus between immigration and national security. It’s a sieve. We have known it has -- and, look, we’re a great nation are. We built the Panama Canal in the 19th century. We’re up for a fence in the 21st. There’s a lot of things we can and should be doing now.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “There’s Been Cases Of Individuals Dressed As Bin Laden Come Across In Full Daylight And Make Their Way Up To The I-10.”**

In July 2015 Zinke was interviewed on CNN. “KEILAR: You just told us that you see the southern border, the security of the southern border, to be essential. You say it’s the nexus of national security and immigration. Do you have any evidence that terrorists are trying to come in through Mexico? ZINKE: There’s been cases of individuals dressed as bin Laden come across in full daylight and make their way up to the I-10. I have been at the border. I can tell you it is a sieve. And it needs to be corrected. In the last six months or so, there has been over 60 nations represented. It’s not, as a lot of the people look at it, this is a South American problem, Hispanic problem. It’s not. (CROSSTALK) [18:10:00] KEILAR: Is that recent? Is that recent, what has happened? And do you think terrorists are coming across the border? ZINKE: I absolutely do. If I was a terrorist... KEILAR: Do you have evidence of it? ZINKE: Well, certainly, from the number of people that -- and the nations represented in the last six months, yes, there’s evidence that it’s multinational. And look, from a perspective... (CROSSTALK) KEILAR: But I’m just -- I’m trying to get a handle on this, because there’s a difference of it being a vulnerability, which I think a lot of people might look at and say there’s a possibility, but is it happening? Are you seeing ISIS-inspired people, ISIS, al Qaeda? What do you know of someone coming across the border? ZINKE: Well, unfortunately, the time we know when a terrorist attack will occur from our southern border will be too late. I think it’s a risk. I think the assessment from the experts, it is a risk.

In my experience, given how large the border is and given how many people are coming across the border, I mean, look, if a child can come across the border, and we know there's hundreds of thousands of children that have, then what makes you think that ISIS and terrorists can't? And weapons of mass destruction..." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Could Not Come Up With Specific Evidence Of Terrorists Attempting To Cross The Southern Border**

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### **Zinke: Argued for Fence on Southern Border Because It Was "A Nexus Between Immigration & National Security"**

"When asked by a reporter about ISIS and the state of America's national security, Zinke responded that the country faces many threats. 'ISIS is a threat, al-Qaida is a threat and terrorist Islamic organizations remain a threat, and we have to take it seriously,' Zinke said. 'And so is Iran. And the thought that an administration would carve out a legal path for Iran to have a nuclear weapon is absolutely reckless. So unfortunately the world has a lot of evil to it and national security, that's one of the fundamental duties of our government is security, and national security. So ISIS, we need to remain vigilant. Certainly shutting down our southern border. Our southern border is now a nexus between immigration and national security and we're a great country. We built the Panama Canal in the 19th century. I think we're up for a fence in the 20th.'" [Missouliau, [5/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke: Shut Down the Border**

At the first debate with John Lewis, Zinke said "Well the immigration at present policy isn't working, is it? Now you've seen the news recently. Thousands of kids coming across, what're you going to do? I think the answer is you've got to secure the border. Especially, if you're a land owner in Texas and some of those border states, you don't have access and use of your land and the United States as a government is not supporting your property rights. So I do think you need to shut the border down. [House debate, [6/14/14](#)]

## **CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION**

### **Zinke Voted to Fund U.S. Customs & Border Protection**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for: "Adoption of a conference report to accompany the Trade Facilitation and Enforcement Act (HR 644) that would formally establish the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and authorize the CBP to use an automated import-export processing system. Further, the bill would strengthen

enforcement of intellectual property rights and U.S. trade agreements by establishing the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund and the National Intellectual Property Rights within the Treasury Department and U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), respectively. The bill would permanently ban state and local taxation of Internet access and ends grandfathered Internet access taxation in seven states. The bill would also amend the Trade Promotion Authority to add more negotiating objectives for future trade agreements, specifically that future trade agreements not require changes to U.S. immigration law or climate change obligations.” The bill passed by 256-158. [CQ, [12/11/15](#), H.R.644, Vote 693, [12/11/15](#)]

### **Bill Overhauled U.S. C&BP & Cracked Down On Currency Manipulation, But “Poisoned” The Enforcement Provisions**

“A long-awaited customs enforcement measure is headed toward the Senate after easily passing the House on Friday. The legislation — which comes after months of negotiations between House and Senate lawmakers — includes an overhaul of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency, as well as new protections for intellectual property and stronger tools for the government to crackdown on currency manipulation. House Democrats largely opposed the measure with Pelosi suggesting that negotiators ‘poisoned’ the enforcement legislation.” [The Hill, [12/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for Conference on Automated System for Customs & Border Protection to Process Imports/Exports**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for: ‘Brady, R-Texas, motion that the House insist on the House amendment to the Senate amendment and request a conference on a bill (HR 644) that would establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP); authorize the complete development and implementation of the automated commercial environment (ACE) system for CBP to process imports and exports; establish reporting requirements for program accountability; transition to an electronic import claims process; raise de minimis amounts that trigger reporting requirements; require semiannual currency reports on major U.S. trading partners; direct the administration to take specific steps if it finds a country manipulating its currency; and amend the Trade Promotion Authority bill, once enacted, to include additional trade negotiating objectives, including that trade not include provisions on immigration or climate change.’ The motion was agreed to by a vote of 252-170. [CQ, [12/1/15](#); H.R. 644, Vote 652, [12/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring U.S. Trade Rep Investigation of Currency Manipulation by Foreign Govs**

In December 2015, Zinke voted against: “Kuster, D-N.H., motion to instruct conferees to agree to the provisions contained in Subtitle A of Title 7 in the Senate amendment, which requires the United States Trade Representative to investigate currency manipulation by foreign governments and public entities and specifies the methodology with which the Trade Representative determines currency manipulation.” The motion was rejected 193-232. [CQ, [12/2/15](#); HR 644, Vote 655, [12/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Urged U.S. Customs & Border Protection Not Eliminate MT Border Crossing’s 24-Hour Operation**

“Montana Senator Steve Daines and Representative Ryan Zinke today urged U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials to reverse plans to reduce operating hours at the Port of Raymond and terminate the northeastern Montana border crossing’s 24-hour operating status. In a letter to CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske, Daines and Zinke highlighted the important role that the Port of Raymond holds for regional economic activity and the overwhelming local concern surrounding CBP’s recent decision to reduce operating hours.” [Office of Sen. Steve Daines, Press Release, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Formally Establish U.S. Customs & Border Protection In Statute**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Tiberi, R-Ohio, motion to concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, with a modified amendment that would formally establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in statute; authorize the complete development and implementation of the automated commercial environment (ACE) system for CBP to process imports and exports; and move the import process from a paper-based system to an

electronic claims process. It also would include a number of provisions dealing with enforcement of U.S. trade laws, including U.S. intellectual property rights and anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws; would require semiannual currency reports on nations that are major U.S. trading partners and would direct the administration to take specific steps if it finds that a country is manipulating its currency; and would amend a Trade Promotion Authority bill (to take effect as if included in enactment) to include additional trade negotiating objectives, including that trade agreements not include provisions on immigration or climate change.” The motion was agreed to 240-190. [CQ, [6/12/15](#); H.R.644, Vote, 363, [6/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said the Border Needed to Be Secured Before Immigration Reform, Citing Fear of ISIS or al-Qaida**

“However, he expressed frustration with the differences between the two Republican-controlled chambers in Congress, noting that a ‘clean’ defense authorization bill passed by the House last month — a measure that would have defunded the president’s executive actions on immigration — failed to pass the Senate. And while immigration reform is needed, he said the U.S. border needs to be secured first. ‘If you don’t think an al-Qaida or an ISIS or an Islamic individual can come across with weapons of mass destruction, I think the fact of the matter is it’s a threat,’ Zinke said.” [Daily Inter Lake, [4/2/15](#)]

## **DEPORTATIONS**

### **Voted For Restarting Deportations Of Undocumented Families & DREAMers**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for a federal funding bill that defunded President Obama’s executive action on immigration and ended a program that halted the deportation of some illegal immigrants who came to the United States as children. “Democrats rallied against the bill, which would fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through September, after Republicans adopted a series of contentious amendments that take aim at facets of Obama’s immigration policy. One of the amendments would choke off funding for Obama’s executive action announced in November, which would allow some illegal immigrants to stay in the country and obtain work permits. A second amendment would halt the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA), which lifts deportation for some illegal immigrants who came to the United States as children.” The bill passed 236 to 191. [HR 240, [Vote #35](#), 1/14/15; The Hill, [1/14/15](#); CQ Floor Votes, [1/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For Anti-Immigrant Amendment Putting Interests Of Legal Aliens Above Undocumented Immigrants**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for an anti-immigrant amendment imploring the Obama Administration to stop putting the interests of legal aliens behind those who arrived illegally. It also encouraged the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to use available funds to improve services and the benefits application process for legal immigrants. The amendment was adopted 260 to 167. [HR 240, [Amendment No. 5](#), [Vote #33](#), 1/14/15; CQ Floor Votes, [1/14/15](#)]

### **Voted for Anti-Immigrant Amendment Discouraging Policies to Promote Hiring of Undocumented Immigrants**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for an anti-immigrant amendment imploring the Obama Administration not to pursue policies making it economically advantageous to hire illegal immigrants. The amendment was adopted 253-171. [HR 240, [Amendment No. 4](#), [Vote #32](#), 1/14/15; CQ Floor Votes, 1/14/15]

### **Voted For Anti-Immigrant Amendment That Would Discourage Victims From Reporting Abuse**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for an anti-immigrant amendment that purports to prioritize immigration enforcement actions against illegal immigrants convicted of violent or sexually-oriented offenses. However, the Conference of Catholic Bishops stated that this amendment “would discourage many [domestic violence] victims from reporting abuse.” The amendment was adopted 278-149. [HR 240, [Amendment No. 3](#), [Vote #31](#), 1/14/15; Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Floor Remarks, [1/14/15](#); CQ Floor Votes, [1/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For Amendment To Defund Immigration Executive Order**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to defund President Obama's executive action on immigration. "One of the amendments would choke off funding for Obama's executive action announced in November, which would allow some illegal immigrants to stay in the country and obtain work permits." The amendment was adopted 237 to 190. [HR 240, [Vote #29](#), 1/14/15; The Hill, [1/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For Amendment To End Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would end a program to suspend the deportation of DREAMers. "A second amendment would halt the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA), which lifts deportation for some illegal immigrants who came to the United States as children." The amendment was adopted 218 to 209. [HR 240, [Vote #30](#), 1/14/15; The Hill [1/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Homeland Security Bill Without Stopping Immigration Changes**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of a bill that "would prevent Republicans from endangering national security and fund the Department of Homeland Security for the rest of the year, bringing forward the bipartisan Homeland Security appropriations bill for a clean vote without Republicans' anti-immigrant amendments." The motion failed 242 to 181. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 27, [Vote #20](#), 1/13/15; [114<sup>th</sup> Previous Questions](#)]

## **EMPLOYERS OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**

### **Voted for a Crackdown on Businesses that Hire Undocumented Immigrants**

In 2009, Zinke voted in favor of legislation that would prohibit companies from taking expense deductions for undocumented immigrants. Zinke said, "When one group can have an advantage being illegal over a legal business, it's wrong." The bill passed (33-17). [[SB 377](#), [3/13/09](#); AP, 3/12/09]

### **Supported Financial Penalties for those who Employ Undocumented Immigrants**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for financial punishments for those who knowingly employ undocumented immigrants. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **ENLISTING IN THE MILITARY UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**

### **Zinke Cosp. Bill to Authorize the Enlistment of Certain Undocumented Immigrants in the Armed Forces**

In June 2015, Zinke cosponsored: "A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the enlistment in the Armed Forces of certain aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States and were younger than 15 years of age when they initially entered the United States, but who are otherwise qualified for enlistment, and to provide a mechanism by which such aliens, by reason of their honorable service in the Armed Forces, may be lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence." [CQ, Accessed [6/5/15](#); H.R. 1989, Co-sponsored 6/4/15, Introduced 4/23/15]

### **Called "RINO" For His Vote To Allow "Illegal Aliens To Enlist In The U.S. Military," According To Conservative HQ**

"That Democrats would sacrifice America's national security to pander to racial politics is no surprise, but discovering that enough Republicans were willing to join them shows just how diluted the Republican Party has become in the age of Obama. The Republicans who voted in Committee for the amendment to allow illegal aliens to enlist in the U.S. military are Reps. Martha McSally (AZ-2), Tom MacArthur (NJ-3), Frank LoBiondo (NJ-2), Chris Gibson (NY-19), Mike Coffman (CO-6) and Rep. Ryan Zinke (MT-At-Large). These 20 'Republicans,' and if there was ever an example of a Republican In Name Only or RINO it is these 20, deserve a conservative primary challenge in 2016 and we stand ready to help their challengers in any way we can. [...]

Plus Montana's Rep. Ryan Zinke who voted for the Gallego amendment in Committee and then flipped and supported the Brooks amendment on the Floor." [ConservativeHQ, [5/18/15](#)]

### **Voted for Removing Provision Encouraging Defense Department to Allow DREAMers To Serve In Military**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for removing an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill that "would encourage the Pentagon to consider allowing immigrants brought to the country as children to [serve in the military]." [HR 1735, [Vote #229](#), 5/14/15; NPR, [5/13/15](#)]

### **...BUT Zinke Voted for Amd Urging the Defense Sec. to Allow DACA-Eligible Individuals in the Military**

"The House Armed Services Committee approved an amendment, offered by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), on Wednesday to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 that affirms Pres. Obama's unconstitutional 2012 DACA amnesty. The amendment was narrowly approved 33-to-30 by the Committee, mostly along party lines, but with enough GOP support to pass." Zinke voted for the amendment. [NumbersUSA, [4/30/15](#)]

## **HOUSING AID**

### **Voted For Barring Use Of Funds For Providing Need-Based Housing For Undocumented Immigrants**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to a DOT and HUD appropriations bill that would "bar funds from being used to provide financial assistance in contravention of section 214 (d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, regarding non-citizen eligibility for need-based housing." Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 states that "only certain categories of noncitizens are eligible for benefits under the housing programs covered by Section 214. Unauthorized aliens are not eligible for benefits under Section 214." The amendment was adopted 246 to 180. [HR 2577, [Vote #320](#), 6/09/15; CQ Summary, [6/09/15](#); CRS, [1/23/12](#)]

### **Voted For Baring Use Of Funds In Violation Of HUD Regulations On Assistance To Non-Citizens**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to a DOT and HUD appropriations bill that would "bar funds from being used in violation of HUD regulations relating to restrictions on assistance to non-citizens." "The amendment was adopted 244-181. [HR 2577, [Vote #319](#), 6/09/15; CQ Summary, [6/09/15](#)]

## **IMMIGRATION REFORM EXECUTIVE ACTIONS & ORDERS**

### **Voted to Prevent DOJ From Using Funds to Defend President's Executive Orders On Immigration**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for and amendment preventing the Department of Justice from using its funds to defend President Obama's executive orders on immigration in a pending legal battle. "House Republicans just went after President Barack Obama's executive actions on immigration – again. The GOP-led chamber voted Wednesday to block the Justice Department from being able to defend itself in a legal battle that has put Obama's sweeping and controversial immigration actions on hold. The measure, written by conservative immigration firebrand Rep. Steve King of Iowa, was an amendment to the overall funding bill for DOJ. As he spoke about his measure, King noted that the House has voted multiple times to restrain Obama's legal authority on immigration and dismissed the actions as 'unconstitutional executive amnesty.' Obama's directive was the epicenter of a battle over Homeland Security, pushing the department's funding to the brink before Republicans capitulated on their demands to defund Obama's actions." The amendment passed 222 to 204. [HR 2578, [Vote #293](#), 6/03/15; On Agreeing to the Amendment, [6/03/15](#); Politico, [6/03/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed Judge's Decision That Blocked Obama's Executive Action Was "Good News"**

Zinke said, "Good news out of Texas in the fight to defend the Constitution against the President's unlawful executive actions." [Ryan Zinke, Campaign Facebook, [4/8/15](#)]

## **Zinke: “I Was Proud To Defund POTUS’ Unconstitutional Actions That Incentivized Hiring Illegal Immigrants.”**

Zinke tweeted on his official page, “The DHS vote was about the Constitution. I was proud to defund POTUS’ unconstitutional actions that incentivized hiring illegal immigrants.” [Twitter, RepRyanZinke, [3/12/15](#)]

## **LANGUAGE BARRIER**

### **Said Immigrants Must Speak English**

At a March 2014 Republican primary debate, Zinke said that immigrants must speak English. Zinke said, “And lastly, speak English. We’re one country under God, we should be able to speak English as a common language. That’s the answer.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

## **NORTHERN BORDER**

### **Zinke Said There Was An Increasing Number Of Illegal Immigrants Crossing The Northern Border.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [12/9/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **REAL ID**

### **Zinke Proposed the “Repeal Real ID Act”**

In 2016, Zinke proposed the “Repeal Real ID Act” that created federal mandates for driver’s licenses included in the Real ID Act of 2005. According to the *Great Falls Tribune*, “The Montana Legislature in 2007 voted unanimously not to comply with the federal law.” The *Tribune* noted, “Zinke said it was important to ensure state’s rights. ‘While maintaining security standards is important, we cannot allow the federal government to infringe on our right to privacy and strip Montana of our state sovereignty,’ he said via email.” [Great Falls Tribune, 1/13/16]

*NOTE: Sen. Tester co-authored the Senate version.*

### **...BUT Was Undecided if Montana Should Participate in Federal REAL ID Program in 2008**

In 2008, Zinke was undecided if Montana should participate in the federal REAL ID program, but supported requiring a valid Montana ID for all elections. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **SANCTUARY CITIES**

### **Zinke Voted to Withhold Certain Grants to Govts. That Bar Officials from Taking Certain Immigration Actions**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of a bill that would withhold certain federal law enforcement grants to state and local governments that bar their officials from taking certain immigration-related actions, such as gathering or maintaining information on the immigration or citizenship status of individuals or sharing such information with federal immigration authorities. The withheld federal law enforcement grants include the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (which allows states to enter into a contractual arrangement with the federal government for compensation for the incarceration of undocumented criminal immigrants), the Community-Oriented Policing Services program (COPS, which helps support the hiring of police officers at the state and local level) and the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne-JAG, which supports a range of programs, including prosecutions and courts).” The bill passed by a vote of 241-179. [CQ, [7/23/15](#); H.R. 3009, Vote 466, [7/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Allow the AG to Reduce Some Grants Even If Determined Reductions Would Result in an Increase in the Overall Crime Rate**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Jeffries, D-N.Y., motion to recommit the bill to the House Committee on the Judiciary, with instructions to report back with an amendment that would prohibit the Attorney General

from reducing federal law enforcement grants to states or local governments if the Attorney General determines that such reductions would result in an increase in the overall crime rate of the state or a decrease in the number of law enforcement officers in that area.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 181-239. [CQ, [7/23/15](#); H.R. 3009, Vote 465, [7/23/15](#)]

**Headline: *The Hill*: “Democrats slam sanctuary city legislation, labeling it ‘The Donald Trump Act.’”**  
[The Hill, [7/22/15](#)]

**Headline: *Politico*: “GOP picks a fight over immigration.”**  
[Politico, [7/23/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Block Fund for Cities that Do Not Report Names to Federal Immigration Officials**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2016 blocking funds to cities “The House also voted 227-198 for an amendment that would block certain federal funds to localities that refuse to report names to federal immigration authorities. That’s become an issue in recent months as localities refused to participate in a federal program that turns over the names of people picked up for crimes to federal immigration authorities.” the amendment passed, 227 to 198. [HR 2578, [Amendment #84](#), [Vote# 294](#), 6/03/15; AP [6/03/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Punish Local Governments if they Did Not Enforce Federal Immigration Laws**

In 2009, Zinke voted to punish local governments if they did not enforce federal immigration laws. [SB 282, [2/25/09](#)]

#### **Supported Local Law Enforcement Enforcing Federal Immigration Laws**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for state and local law enforcement officials enforcing federal immigration laws. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **WORK VISAS**

#### **Zinke: Shut Down the Border, Give Work Visas**

At the GOP debate, Zinke when asked about immigration mtsaid “The Republicans did not have a vision on immigration. That’s the facts of it. So, what do we do? Shut down the border. There’s a difference between a northern border and a southern border. You got to shut it down. If you’re a Texan, or along a border state, you don’t have access, you don’t have the right of your land, and United States needs to hold its promise good. Secondly, work visas. I want to know who’s here. If you’re a felon, if you’re convicted, you only get a visa. But we have to know who is here.” [GOP Debate, [5/28/14](#)]

#### **Reiterated Support for Work Visas**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke reiterated his support for work visas. Zinke said, “I’ll offer this as a vision: how about work visas? There’s about 9 million people in this country that would go back and forth, if they had the opportunity. How about shut the border down? And protect our border, especially on the southern side.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

#### **Supported Work Visas for Undocumented Immigrants**

In January 2014, Zinke said that he support work visas for undocumented immigrants. Zinke said, “The right path is work visas and make sure a border is controlled [...] It infuriates me when driver’s license tests are in 15 different languages.” [Bigfork Eagle, 1/30/14]

## LABOR & JOBS

- ✓ Zinke received a 60% from the Montana AFL-CIO in 2011.
- ✓ He voted to liquidate the Federal Reserve's surplus funds and redirect the money to the General Fund.
- ✓ He voted against prohibiting funding contractors who violated the Fair Labor Standards Act and against prohibiting VA contracts with employers who have violated labor laws.
- ✓ He voted to block the implementation of union election rules set by the National Labor Relations Board.
- ✓ He claimed Montana was 49<sup>th</sup> in wages, but opposed raising the federal minimum wage.
- ✓ He called for government to get out of business claiming it was "overreaching" and "unelected bureaucrats... inflicted about \$3.6 trillion of damage."
- ✓ He criticized the successful auto-bailout, claiming "was General Motors really too big to fail?"
- ✓ He implied that he supported cutting state pensions.
- ✓ Zinke sponsored the Senate version of a Workers' Compensation bill. He criticized rates as "too high."
- ✓ He voted against a loan reimbursement program for registered nurses working in Montana state hospitals and prisons.
- ✓ He bemoaned the number of people on food stamps and supported increasing work requirements for welfare recipients.
- ✓ ...BUT he voted against allowing tips as credit to meet the minimum wage; supported job training for welfare recipients; low interest loans & tax credits for starting a business; funding for childcare for low-income workers; and funding job training programs.

### **Received a 91% from the Montana AFL-CIO**

In 2009, Zinke received a 91 percent rating from the Montana AFL-CIO. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **2 Years Later: Received a 60% from the Montana AFL-CIO**

In 2011, Zinke received a 60 percent from the Montana AFL-CIO. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **...BUT 2009: Received a 88% from the Teamsters Local 190**

In 2009, Zinke received an 88 percent rating from the Teamsters Local 190. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Zinke Stressed the Need to Grow the Economy**

Zinke's 2016 campaign website read, "The economy is improving, but not fast enough. The labor participation rate is the lowest it's been in generations because people have simply given up looking for a job. Meanwhile, families are forced to struggle with stagnant wages while the cost of living just keeps going up. Ryan believes America is exceptional and our economy is strong when Washington stops meddling with our livelihoods and lets us innovate and create jobs. Whether it's historic forest reforms to revitalize timber communities, rein in regulations on our natural resources, like coal, oil and natural gas, or simply cutting taxes and red tape for farmers, ranchers and small businesses, Ryan is committed to growing our local economies and moving Montana and America forward." [RyanZinke.com, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Liquidate Federal Reserve's Surplus Funds And Redirect Money To General Fund**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: "Neugebauer, R-Texas, amendment that would liquidate the Federal Reserve's surplus funds and redirect that money to the General Fund. Future money that would have been deposited in the funds would also be deposited in the General Fund." The amendment passed by 354-72. [CQ, [11/5/15](#), H.Amdt.824 to H.R.22, Vote 622, [11/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke Sought Changes to the Innovation Act**

"Congressman Scott Peters (CA-52) led a letter, with support from a bipartisan group of 78 other colleagues, to House leadership asking for changes to the Inter Partes Review (IPR) portion of H.R. 9, the so-called "Innovation Act," before the bill comes to the floor for a vote. Peters has been out front and persistent in the fight to make substantial changes to the currently-flawed legislation before it is considered by the whole House of Representatives." Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Rep. Scott Peters, Press Release, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Prohibiting Funding Contractors Who Have Violated The Fair Labor Standards Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a prohibition on the "use of funds for contractors that willfully and repeatedly violate the Fair Labor Standards Act. The prohibition would last for five years." The amendment failed, 187-242. [HR 1735, [Vote #354](#); CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Prohibiting Federal Contracts With Employers Who Have Violated Labor Laws**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the FY16 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill that would bar funds from being used to enter into a contract with any individual who has willfully or repeatedly violated the Fair Labor Standards Act. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 182-243. [HR 2577, [Vote #324](#), 6/09/15; Congressional Record, [6/09/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Next Frontier Capital's Investment In Montana's Entrepreneurs**

"Next Frontier Capital (NFC), a Montana-based venture capital firm, today announced the Initial Closing of its inaugural \$20 million fund. NFC's focus is to partner with mission-driven, talented entrepreneurs to build Montana technology companies of impact, utility and value. Montana is characterized by a tradition of entrepreneurship, high university and commercial research activity, quality venture investment candidates, and yet is severely undercapitalized. [...] Representative Zinke said, 'With the amount of untapped entrepreneurial talent in Montana, it is welcome news that Next Frontier Capital is committed to funding and building business ideas here at home. Montana truly is the last best place on earth. I'm happy to see investments are being made to make it easier for folks to build a business and grow a family here, especially at the time of year when so many young entrepreneurs are graduating college.'" [Digital Journal, [5/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Toured Spectrum Aquatics, A Missoula Manufacturing Company**

"U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke took some time Tuesday to tour Spectrum Aquatics, a Missoula manufacturing company, and discuss how to create more local jobs during National Small Business Week. Spectrum Aquatics employs 49 people, seven of them military veterans like Zinke, at its manufacturing facility off Expressway Boulevard west of Missoula. [...] The stop was part of a four-day swing through the state for Zinke, who will also meet with businesses owners in the agriculture, health and outdoor recreation industries. 'We're going

across Montana looking at small businesses, (doing) a lot of listening, what are the challenges and what can I do to help as the lone congressman from Montana,' the Republican said. 'It's great to see businesses work, it's great to see small businesses excel, and Spectrum is one of the better ones.' [Missoulian, [5/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Energy Independence Because Of Manufacturing And The Jobs It Created**

"Zinke said he is a big advocate of energy independence because manufacturing – and the jobs the industry creates – requires huge amounts of energy. 'It is much better to have energy produced in North America than it is to be held hostage by foreign countries,' he said. 'And energy is a lot of bringing the costs down so we can be globally competitive. And the numbers have to make sense. You have to have a reasonable return on investment and the regulation has to be fair and consistent. [Missoulian, [5/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Regulations Hurt Smaller Businesses, Claimed "The More We Can Push Responsibility To The States"**

Zinke said, "When you have four people coming in on different days for inspections and they fine you for small things that don't make a difference, what it does do is hurt the smaller businesses that are trying to get by and employ people. And of course health care, by and large, the more we can push responsibility to the states that know what's best for the workforce and the opportunity in Montana, the better off we are as a country." [Missoulian, [5/5/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Prohibiting Enforcement Of Prevailing Wage Requirements For VA Construction Projects**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would prohibit using funds for the enforcement of prevailing wage requirements laid out by the Davis-Bacon Act. The Davis-Bacon Act requires contracts working on federally funded construction projects to pay workers the prevailing wage in whichever jurisdiction a construction project is taking place. The amendment failed to pass 186 to 235. [HR 2029, [Vote #191](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Voted For Preventing VA Employees From Performing Union Related Activities While At Work**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that would prevent VA employees from performing union related activities while on the job. The amendment's sponsor, Rep. Jody Hice (GA-10) claimed that the practice known as official time wastes taxpayer dollars and said "The Department of Veterans Affairs is one of the agencies with the most egregious use of official time. This agency is singlehandedly responsible for almost one-third of all the reported official time usage in the entire Federal Government." The amendment failed to pass 190 to 232. [HR 2029, [Vote #190](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [4/30/15](#); Congressional Record, [4/29/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Prohibiting VA Contracts With Employers Who Have Violated Labor Laws**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would have prohibited the use of federal funds for contracts with employers who have previously violated the Fair Labor Standards Act. The amendment failed to pass 186 to 237. [HR 2029, [Vote #189](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Striking Provision Turning Medicare into Premium Support System, Including Paid Sick Leave**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to instruct that would ask the House agree with the Senate in favoring paid sick leave and preventing Medicare from becoming a voucher program. "In the House, Van Hollen, who's running for Senate in the Old Line State, said he wants the House to vote on at least two things: the right for workers to earn paid sick leave and another that would bar Medicare from being turned into a voucher program, a GOP aspiration." The motion failed 187 to 239. [H. Con Res. 11, [Vote #153](#), 4/14/15; Motion to Instruct Conferees, [4/14/15](#); Politico, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Implementation Of Union Election Rules Set By NLRB**

In March 2015, Zinke voted for blocking new election rules the National Labor Relations Board put in place for union elections. “The National Labor Relations Board’s new rules governing representation elections went into effect April 14. The rules block certain litigation ahead of union certification elections, set new timelines for pre-election and postelection hearings, allow parties to file documents electronically and require employers to disclose employees’ phone numbers and email addresses to union organizers. The NLRB and unions say the new rules modernize regulations and delay frivolous lawsuits.” The resolution passed 232 to 186. [S J Res 8, [Vote #128](#), 3/19/15; CQ News, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Obama Said He Would Veto Measure**

The measure “is highly unlikely to become law, as the White House has vowed to veto the measure.” [International Business Times, [3/19/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Striking Allowing SBA’s Chief Counsel Authority To Set Small Business Size Qualifications**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against Schrader of Oregon Part A Amendment No. 4, an amendment to the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015 that would strike a provision in the bill that would provide the Small Business Administration’s chief counsel with authority to set size standards for small businesses and approve such standards. The amendment failed 184 to 234. [HR 527, [Vote #65](#), 2/05/15; CQ]

### **Voted Against Repealing Statutory Changes Of Bill If Less Than 5% GDP Growth In First Year After Enactment**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against Connolly of Virginia Part C Amendment No. 3, an amendment to the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015 that would “provide that in the event that the average annual rate of real gross domestic product (GDP) growth remains below 5 percent over the first four calendar quarters occurring after the date of enactment of H.R. 50, then the statutory changes made by the bill would be repealed.” HR 50 itself “would expand and modify the 1995 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (PL 104-4) that requires all federal agencies to consult with the private sector when developing rules... The measure would extend judicial review of agency rules and permit a court to stay, enjoin or invalidate a rule if an agency fails to complete the required UMRA analysis or adhere to the regulatory principles.” The amendment failed 173 to 249. [HR 50, [Vote #62](#), 2/04/15; Congress.gov, [2/04/15](#); CQ News HR 50 Coverage, [2/04/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Eliminating Requirement Agencies Provide Regulatory Cost-Benefit Analysis**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against Cummings of Maryland Part C Amendment No. 2, an amendment to the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015 that would “strike section 12 of the bill, which would require Federal agencies to conduct a retrospective cost-benefit analysis of any regulation at the request of the Chairman or Ranking Member of a Congressional Committee.” The amendment failed 179 to 245. [HR 50, [Vote #61](#), 2/04/15; Congress.gov, [2/04/15](#)]

### **Voted for Blocking Consideration of Career Education in Manufacturing**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for to block consideration of a vote to provide career education in manufacturing to help students prepare for 21st century manufacturing jobs. The previous question carried, 242-176. A vote against the previous question was to force the vote on career education in manufacturing. [H Res 70, [Vote #54](#), 2/03/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [2/03/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Exempting Rules Resulting In Net Job Creation from Significant Delays**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment exempting rules resulting in net job creation from the bill’s burdensome requirements. The amendment failed 247 to 178. [HR 185, [Amendment No. 2](#), [Vote #24](#), 1/13/15; CQ Floor Votes, [1/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke said that “Business in Montana, Business is Okay, But We’re 49<sup>th</sup> in Wages”**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said that “business in Montana, business is okay, but we’re 49<sup>th</sup> in wages.” Zinke said, “Business in Montana, business is okay, but we’re 49<sup>th</sup> in wages. Can we do better as a state? Absolutely. We can compete with Mississippi, because that’s who’s beating us. So, I’m an optimist, I think we can fix it. And hey, it’s time.” [YouTube, accessed [5/13/14](#)]

### **Called for Government to Get Out of Business**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said that the key to creating jobs was to get “government out of business so industry can flourish.” Zinke said, “So when I talk about jobs at home, jobs are manufacturing and getting government out of business so industry can flourish. That’s the secret.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Zinke: “The Government is Overreaching”**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke said, “the government is overreaching.” Zinke said, “The only way we’re going to grow our economy is to get government out of business. Whether you’re in education, whether you’re in energy, whether you’re in, pick one, it’s all the same. The government is overreaching.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Claimed “Unelected Bureaucrats... Inflicted about \$3.6 Trillion of Damage”**

In March 2014, at a Republican primary debate, Zinke claimed that “in 2012 alone, unelected bureaucrats, by rule authority, inflicted about \$3.6 trillion of damage on business.” Zinke said, “A statistic: in 2012 alone, unelected bureaucrats, by rule authority, inflicted about \$3.6 trillion of damage on business. That’s about the same as our budget.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Zinke: “Let’s Create Jobs [...] by Getting the Government Out of the Way”**

In February 2014, Zinke said we need to “create jobs and grow the economy by getting the government out of the way.” Zinke said, “Let’s create jobs and grow the economy by getting the government out of the way. We need to unleash the power of American business and create good jobs at home.” [Hungry Horse News, 2/10/14]

### **“We’ve Got to Get Government Out of Business”**

In 2014, Zinke said again, “we’ve got to get government out of business.” Zinke said, “First, we’ve got to get government out of business, where it, the hurdles, barricades, and barriers to business are removed. In one year alone, 2012, unelected bureaucrats, those are, not by rule of congress, but by those bureaucrats, and I’m not saying bureaucrat is a bad word but bureaucrats by rule authority inflicted about \$3.6 trillion of damage on business. \$3.6 trillion. That’s about equal to our budget, in one year.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Zinke Said “It was a Rude Awakening [...] that we Have 47 Million People on Food Stamps”**

In October 2013, during an interview for Newsmax, Zinke said “it was a rude awakening to America that we have 47 million people on food stamps.” Zinke said, “I think that the second part about it is, is when the government did shutdown, I think it was a rude awakening to America that we have 47 million people on food stamps. And so the amount of government dependency, and these, it’s about jobs.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Opposed Raising the Federal Minimum Wage**

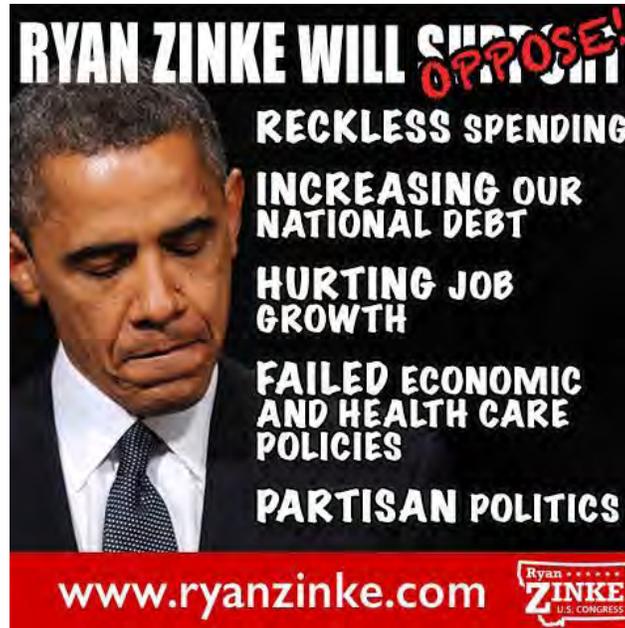
In April 2014, Zinke said he opposed Obama’s proposal to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. [Montana Standard, 4/25/14]

### **Zinke Asked “was General Motors Really Too Big to Fail?”**

On October 31, 2013, Zinke tweeted “was General Motors really too big to fail? Almost \$10B loss to taxpayers because of Washington’s bailout.” [Twitter, [HYPERLINK](#) "https://twitter.com/RyanZinke/status/395943973048815616" [10/31/13](#)]

## Zinke Tweeted “I Strongly Oppose Barack Obama’s Failed Economic and Spending Policies”

On November 20, 2013, Zinke tweeted “I strongly oppose Barack Obama’s failed economic and spending policies.”



[Twitter, [11/20/13](#)]

## Implied that He Supported Cutting State Pensions

In April 2012, after Governor Schweitzer announced his plan to fund the state’s overdrawn pension plan, Zinke said that he and Livingstone were “401(k) advocates.” Zinke said, “We are 401(k) advocates. That doesn’t mean dismantling the entire system but it does mean providing more flexibility and modifying the pension system to the modern era.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/17/12]

## Skeptical of Democrats’ Job Training Bill

In March 2011, Zinke was skeptical of a job training bill supported by Democrats. The bill would allocate state funds to train veterans and their spouses as truck drivers but would open up training services to all unemployed Montanans. The bill estimated that 100 people would take advantage of the program each year. Zinke said, “If the demand is out there, then it’s far greater than 100.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 3/11/11]

## Zinke Sponsored Senate Version of Workers’ Comp. Bill

In 2011, Zinke sponsored the Senate version of a workers’ compensation bill. Zinke’s bill came from a four year study by a committee of lawmakers and representatives from labor and management. Zinke’s bill included a time limit on benefits and would limit payments to health care providers to no more than 165 percent of what Medicare would pay for the same procedure. Zinke said, “Let’s get a bill that brings the best of the discussion together. There is plenty of room to play politics on everything else. But on this issue let’s put Montana first.” [Char-Koosta News, 2/17/11; AP, 2/10/11]

## Negotiated Amendments to House Version

In March 2011, Zinke negotiated amendments to the House bill to help increase support from labor. Speaking of the House bill, Zinke said, “this is a great bill.” [Daily Inter Lake, 3/24/11]

## Called the House Bill a Compromise between Republicans and Governor

In March 2011, Zinke called the new house bill a policy compromise with Republicans and Governor Schweitzer. Zinke said, “That’s the message: We can work together and when we work together we accomplish great things.” [AP, 3/24/11]

### **Savings from Reforms Should Go to Businesses**

In February 2011, when discussing worker compensation reform, Zinke said that any savings from worker compensation reform should go to businesses. Zinke said, “And the thing I’m adamant on is that any savings [from reforms] go back to businesses either in dividends or rate reductions, but not to the state fund.” [Daily Inter Lake, 2/04/11]

### **Zinke said “We Don’t Want to Cut People Off from Legitimate Compensation”**

In January 2011, Zinke said that “we don’t want to cut people off from legitimate compensation from their injury.” Zinke said, “We don’t want to cut people off from legitimate compensation for their injury. We just want to make sure there are checks and balances so we do the right thing and lower the rates, so Montana businesses can compete and grow.” [Missoulian, 1/31/11]

### **Zinke Said “Work Comp Rates are Too High”**

In March 2010, Zinke stated that the work compensation rates were too high. Zinke said, “I’ve talked to a hundred businesses, and there are jobs available, but they can’t afford to hire anyone because the work-comp rates are so high. We need to do better because I think it’s criminal that a business can’t hire an individual, even though he has work, for the sole reason that work-comp rates are too high.” [Billings Gazette, 3/20/10]

### **Voted Against a Loan Reimbursement Program for State Institutional Nurses**

In April 2009, Zinke voted against a House bill to establish a loan reimbursement program for registered professional nurses working at the Montana state prison and state hospital. The bill passed (36-14). [[HB 224, 4/15/09](#)]

### **Supported Increasing Work Requirements for Welfare Recipients**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support of increasing work requirements for able-bodied welfare recipients. Zinke said, “I strongly believe in creating the opportunity for good paying jobs, but disagree in providing long term entitlement program.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Reducing State Government Regulations on Private Sector**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support to reduce state government regulations on the private sector. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Zinke said “I Strongly Support Reforming Workers Compensation”**

In 2008, Zinke said that “I strongly support reforming workers compensation and unemployment insurance.” Zinke said, “I strongly support reforming workers compensation and unemployment insurance.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Raising the Minimum Wage**

In 2008, Zinke indicated he opposed increasing the state minimum wage. [Project VoteSmart, 2008 [Political Courage Test](#)]

### **...BUT Voted Against Allowing Tips as Credit to Meet Minimum Wage**

In February 2009, Zinke and five other Republicans joined the Senate Democrats to oppose a bill that would have allowed tips to count towards credit to meet minimum wage requirements. The bill failed (21-29). [[SB 253, 2/03/09](#)]

### **Supported Increasing Funding for Job Training for Welfare Recipients**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support to increase funding for employment and job training programs for welfare recipients. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Low Interest Loans and Tax Credits for Starting a Business**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for low interest loans and tax credits for starting, expanding, or relocating businesses. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Increasing Funds to Provide Childcare for Low-Income Workers**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support to increase state funds to provide childcare for children in low-income working families. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **Supported Funding for Job Training Programs**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for funding for state job-training programs that re-train displaced workers. Zinke said, “I support aggressive job training and skill enhancement programs in the industrial trades to maintain market competitiveness.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

- ✓ Zinke voted against a motion to allow home buyers to see court remedy against predatory practices and to delay implementing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's rules for home buyers.
- ✓ He voted to bar HUD from enforcing a regulation combating discrimination in the housing market and he voted to bar funding for the private enforcement initiative of the Fair Housing Initiatives Program. He also voted to prevent the DOJ from enforcing disparate impact claims under the Fair Housing Act.
- ✓ He voted to roll back regulations created to prevent the bad lending practices that led to the 2008 financial crisis. He also voted to weaken Wall Street reform for mortgage lenders.
- ✓ He voted against preventing those convicted of mortgage fraud and predatory lenders from providing home loans.
- ✓ He supported raising taxes on working class families by \$2,000, while giving millionaires tax breaks.
- ✓ He supported giving tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas.

## HOUSING

### **Voted Against A Motion To Allow Home Buyers To Seek Court Remedy Against Predatory Practices**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would “protect the rights of servicemembers, seniors, and students to seek a court remedy against predatory practices in the home-buying process.” The motion failed, 185-240. [HR 3192, [Vote #539](#), 10/07/15; Democratic Leader – Motions to Recommit, [10/07/15](#)]

### **Voted For Delaying Implementation Of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Rules For Home Buyers**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that would “delay implementation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's rules regarding lender disclosures to consumers applying for home mortgage loans until Feb. 1, 2016. Enforcement of the rules and lawsuits against lenders would be prohibited as long as the lender makes a good-faith effort to comply with the rules.” The bill passed 303-121. [HR 3192, [Vote #540](#), 10/07/15; CQ Floor Votes, [10/07/15](#)]

### **Voted for Agreements for Improvements Reducing Energy or Water Costs in Subsidized Housing**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Luetkemeyer, R-Mo., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would establish a demonstration program under which the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) may enter into budget-neutral agreements for improvements that would reduce energy or water costs in subsidized housing units in multifamily buildings. Eligible properties would include units in multifamily buildings that are participating in one of three types of HUD housing assistance programs: Section 8 project-based rental assistance (excluding units provided under the voucher program), supportive housing for the elderly and supportive housing for persons with disabilities.” The motion was agreed 395-28. [CQ, [7/14/15](#); H.R. 2997, Vote 436, [7/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For Amendment To Bar HUD From Enforcing Regulation Combating Discrimination In the Housing Market**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the FY16 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill that would bar funds from being used by HUD to administer a federal regulation that dictates, “If the policies of

governmental agencies, banks or private real estate companies unjustifiably perpetuate segregation, regardless of their intent, they could be found in violation of the Fair Housing Act.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 231-195. [HR 2577, [Vote #323](#), 6/09/15; Propublica, [1/21/15](#)]

### **Voted For Amendment Barring Implementation Of Housing Rule Meant To Combat Housing Segregation**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 that would “bar funding for HUD to implement, enforce or administer the proposed Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule.” The amendment passed 229 to 193. [HR 2577, [Vote #311](#), 6/09/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/09/15](#)]

### **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule Self Purports To Combat Segregation**

According to the Federal Register, the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule “[e]stablish[es] an approach to affirmatively further fair housing that calls for coordinated efforts to combat illegal housing discrimination, so that individuals and families can make decisions about where to live, free from discrimination, with necessary information regarding housing options, and with adequate support to make their choices viable.” [Federal Register, [7/19/13](#)]

### **Voted For Barring Funding For The Private Enforcement Initiative Of The Fair Housing Initiatives Program**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 that would “bar funds from being used for the Private Enforcement Initiative of the Fair Housing Initiatives Program.” The amendment passed 224 to 198. [CQ Floor Votes, [6/04/15](#); HR 2577, [Vote #307](#), 6/04/15]

### **National Council On Independent Living: PEI Grantees Are “Critical” To Enforcement Of The Fair Housing Act**

“PEI grants support local, private fair housing groups’ testing, complaint intake, and investigation efforts. PEI grantees are critical to enforcement efforts for the Fair Housing Act. Disability-related complaints is the largest category of Fair Housing complaints. To remove funding for the PEI program would damage Fair Housing enforcement in many communities. This harms people with disabilities when fair housing enforcement is not readily available in communities.” [NCIL, [6/05/15](#)]

### **Voted For Preventing DOJ From Enforcing Disparate Impact Claims Under The Fair Housing Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that prevented the department of justice from enforcing disparate impact claims under the Fair Housing Act. “Housing discrimination claims: The House has passed an amendment sponsored by Rep. Scott Garrett, R-N.J., to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 2578). The amendment would bar funding for Justice Department enforcement actions under the Fair Housing Act that rely on the theory of disparate impact to allege racial and other forms of discrimination by mortgage lenders, landlords, and home insurers. Garrett said the threat of prosecution for treating various classes of homeowners and renters differently, based on their economic status, would impede the ability ‘for lenders to make rational economic decisions about risk’ rather than based on the possibility that the Justice Department will consider their actions discriminatory.” The amendment passed 232 to 196. [HR 2578, [Vote #287](#), 6/03/15; On Agreeing to the Amendment, [6/03/15](#); Citizen-Times, [6/05/15](#)]

## **MORTGAGES**

### **Zinke Voted to Provide A Safe Harbor From Some Requirements for Qualified Mortgages**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would create a safe harbor from the penalties under the Dodd-Frank Act for banks that originate non-qualified mortgages that do not comply with the ability-to-repay requirements, as long as the bank retains the mortgage in its own portfolio. The bill would also create

safe harbor for mortgage originators (brokers) if the mortgage lender is a depository institution and intends to hold the mortgage for the life of the loan, and the originator tells the consumer that the lender will hold the mortgage for the life of the loan. The bill would also require that prepayment penalties comply with current statutory requirements. Further, the bill would provide safe harbor to balloon payment loans, as long as these loans meet all other qualified mortgage requirements. As amended, the bill would clarify that systemically important financial institutions (SIFIs) are excluded from the safe harbor provisions under the bill.” The bill passed 255-174. [CQ, [11/18/15](#); HR 1210, Vote 636, [11/18/15](#)]

### **Would Roll Back Regulations That Were Created To Prevent The Bad Lending Practices That Led To The 2008 Financial Crisis**

“The House passed legislation Wednesday that critics argue rolls back regulations for mortgages that were created to prevent the bad lending practices responsible for the financial crisis of 2008. The Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act, which was introduced by Rep. Andy Barr (R-Ky.), passed by a 255-174 vote. The bill extends a federal exemption meant for small and rural banks to all banking institutions. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) issued regulations last year that require lenders to ensure a borrower’s ability to repay a loan in order to obtain a qualified mortgage status, which provides lenders a ‘safe harbor’ protection from federal penalties and lawsuits brought by borrowers who have defaulted on their loans. But the bureau created an exemption to allow small and rural banks to achieve that qualified mortgage status without following the ability-to-repay rule, which requires a borrower’s debt-to-income ratio to be 43 percent or less. Banking organizations, which support extending the exemption, argued that the rule was too restrictive and caused mid-size community bankers to decrease or eliminate their mortgage businesses.” [The Hill, [11/18/15](#)]

### **Rep. Maxine Waters Said It “Undermines The Anti-Predatory Lending Provisions” In Wall Street Reform**

“Though opponents of the bill say the legislation will open the door to the reckless lending practices of the past, supporters say there is a safety valve in place. Under the legislation, a lender would lose the “safe harbor” protection if the loan is securitized or sold into a secondary market. [...] But Rep. Maxine Waters (Calif.), the top Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee, warned it would undo a key part of new rules established by the CFPB in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. ‘The bill undermines the anti-predatory lending provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act and virtually eliminates one of the most significant consumer protection rules implemented by the CFPB,’ Waters said. The Obama administration has issued a veto threat against the bill, warning it ‘would undermine the essential protections provided under the Qualified Mortgage rule.’” [The Hill, [11/18/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Preventing Those Convicted Of Mortgage Fraud & Predatory Lenders from Providing Home Loans**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would prevent those convicted of mortgage fraud and predatory lenders from providing loans to homeowners. “No person or lender that has been found to have engaged in unfair, deceptive, predatory, or abusive lending practices, or convicted of mortgage fraud under Federal or relevant State law may make use of the amendments made by this Act “ The motion failed 184 to 239. [HR 650, [Vote #150](#), 14/14/15; Motion to Recommit, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For A Bill That Changed The Definition Of A Qualified Mortgage Under The Truth In Lending Act**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for the Mortgage Choice Act. “The bill excludes insurance paid at closing into escrow, as well as fees paid for related services to lender-affiliated companies, from the 3% cap on points and fees imposed on ‘qualified mortgages’ by redefining ‘points and fees’ under the Truth in Lending Act. The measure is intended to clarify conflicting definitions under current law and thereby ensure that mortgage loans to low- and middle-income borrowers remain affordable.” The bill passed, 286 to 140. [HR 685, [Vote #152](#), 4/14/15; CQ, [4/10/15](#)]

### **Bill Would “Weaken Regulations On Mortgage Lenders”**

“Ranking second behind the Chamber was the National Association of Realtors. The group spent \$7.7 million lobbying on issues like flood insurance premiums, which have risen sharply in the past few years. NAR also lobbied for the Mortgage Choice Act, a bill that would weaken regulations on mortgage lenders enacted following the 2007 collapse of the housing market. The Mortgage Choice Act passed in the House of Representatives on April 14.” [Huffington Post, [4/23/15](#)]

### **Voted For Weakening Wall Street Reform For Mortgage Lenders**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for legislation that would roll back regulations in the Wall Street reform law. “Regulations from the Dodd-Frank Act that went into effect in early 2014 tightened requirements and restrictions on ‘high-cost’ loans. For example, if the interest rate and fees on loans reach a certain level, lenders have to verify a borrower’s ability to repay loans and disclose consequences of default and loan terms ... the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2015. HR 650 would raise the threshold for which loans are considered ‘high cost,’ from 8.5 percent above the average rate to 10 percent above the average rate. President Obama has threatened to veto it if it passes both houses. The change may seem minor, but the higher threshold would mean the lender has to do less work and disclose less information to borrowers. The majority of loans on manufactured homes carry high interest rates, especially compared with a typical mortgage.” The bill passed, 263 to 162. [HR 650, [Vote #151](#), 4/14/15; Seattle Times Editorial, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Barring Deceptive Or Abusive Lenders in Manufactured Housing**

On April 14, 2015, Zinke voted against: “Waters, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Financial Services Committee with instructions to add language that would bar an individual or lender found to have engaged in unfair, deceptive, predatory, or abusive lending practices, or convicted of mortgage fraud to make use of the bill’s provisions.” The motion failed by a 184-239 vote. [CQ, [4/14/15](#); H.R. 650, Vote 150, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Reduce Regulatory Reqs Regarding High-Cost Mortgages for Manufactured Housing**

On April 14, 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would modify federal rules regarding high-cost-mortgages as they apply to manufactured housing, specifically by changing the definitions of ‘high-cost mortgage’ and ‘mortgage originator’ under federal law to reduce associated regulatory requirements. The measure would change the definition of high-cost mortgage by increasing the maximum rates and fees that a lender may charge on loans for manufactured housing without that mortgage being considered a high-cost mortgage. Under the measure, a first mortgage of \$75,000 or less on a manufactured home would be considered a high-cost mortgage if the interest rate on the loan exceeds the average prime offer rate by 10 percentage points - equal to the interest-rate trigger level before the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was enacted. It also would adjust the trigger level of associated points and fees for a loan be considered a high-cost mortgage.” The bill passed by a 263-162 vote. [CQ, [4/14/15](#); H.R. 650, Vote 151, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Exclude Insurance Paid at Closing Intro Escrow from 3% Limit On Points & Fees**

On April 14, 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would exclude insurance paid at closing into escrow, as well as fees paid to lender-affiliated companies, from the three percent limit on points and fees imposed on qualified mortgages by redefining ‘points and fees’ under the Truth in Lending Act.” The bill passed by a 286-140 vote. [CQ, [4/14/15](#); H.R. 685, Vote 152, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Portfolio Lending & Mortgage Access Act**

In March 2015, Zinke cosponsored a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide a safe harbor from certain requirements related to qualified mortgages for residential mortgage loans held on an originating depository institution’s portfolio, and for other purposes. [CQ, Accessed [3/17/15](#); H.R. 1210, Cosponsored 3/16/15, Introduced [3/3/15](#)]

## **Act Would Expand Access To Mortgage Credit Without Additional Risk To The Financial System Or The Taxpayer**

“The Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act, provides that when a residential mortgage loan is held by the loan originator, it is considered a ‘Qualified Mortgage’ and therefore satisfies the ‘ability-to-repay’ requirement in Dodd-Frank. When a mortgage lender keeps a loan in its portfolio, the lender retains the risk of a borrower’s default. This better aligns the interest of the lender to properly underwrite the loan with the borrower’s ability to repay it. The result is expanded access to mortgage credit without additional risk to the financial system or the taxpayer.” [Office of Rep. Barr, Press Release, [2/27/15](#)]

## **TAXES**

### **Zinke Supported Raising Taxes on Working Class Families by \$2,000 While Giving Millionaires Tax Breaks**

Ryan Zinke supported the budget proposed by Rep. Paul Ryan that would raise taxes on the working class in order to avoid increasing the deficit, while giving millionaires tax breaks: “The budget lowers the top tax rate to 25 percent for the wealthiest taxpayers, down from the current 39.6 percent, while raising taxes on middle-class families with children by an average of \$2,000.” [US Congressional GOP Debate, [5/28/14](#); New York Times, [4/01/14](#); Center for American Progress, [4/1/14](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Giving Tax Breaks to Companies that Ship Jobs Overseas**

In 2014, Zinke supported the budget proposed by Rep. Paul Ryan that would adopt a “territorial” tax system to exempt profits that companies make overseas. Experts say such a move would prompt American firms to avoid taxes by moving operations overseas even faster than they already are. [US Congressional GOP Debate, [5/28/14](#); Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, [1/31/13](#); Bipartisan Policy Center, [4/1/14](#)]

## MILITARY & VETERANS

- ✓ Despite being a recipient of disability benefits himself, Zinke told veterans: “Don’t be a victim.” He also said “a lot of them [Veterans] complain about everything.”
- ✓ He argued against lower enlistment standards.
- ✓ He said if the VA was not functioning competitively, veterans should be able to go out and get private care.
- ✓ He warned against creating a system when veterans are dependent on the federal government.
- ✓ He claimed only 3 people were fired as a result of the VA scandal.
- ✓ ...BUT he voted against prohibiting the VA Secretary from removing whistleblowers. In fact, he voted to expand the VA’s ability to demote employees based on performance or misconduct.
- ✓ He voted to kill an amendment to increase spending levels in the VA and against \$15 million in additional funds for VA Health Administration Medical Services.
- ✓ He vehemently opposed women in combat policies, often making archaic arguments. He sponsored a bill to registered women for the draft as a scare tactic – one also used by opponents of the Equal Rights amendment in the 1970s & 1980s. He said, “We have to be cognizant that the anatomy is different.” A female veteran even wrote a public letter criticizing him for his remarks about women in combat being weak and a distraction.

### **Congressman Zinke Accepts Veteran Benefits, Worries Other Vets Who Accept Benefits Could be In “Economic Slavery” to Government**

Like many combat veterans, Congressman Zinke receives disability benefits. It was reported in 2014 that he receives at least \$1,950 a month, in addition to his pension. When it comes to other veterans accepting benefits, however, Congressman Zinke says he worries about the “economic slavery” of accepting government services. [Los Angeles Times, [11/16/14](#); Billings Gazette, [3/29/16](#)]

### **Zinke’s Advice for Veterans, “Don’t Be a Victim”**

In January 2014, on the SOFREP Internet Radio Program, Zinke gave advice to veterans and said “You know, don’t be a victim. We need to police ourselves, because it’s easy to become a victim, right?” Zinke said, “They need, they need the guys in the Vietnam era, the Korean guys, even the World War II, they, they need a mentor, kind of as, you know, as a light the porch, to say, look, you know, your problems aren’t unique, we’ve all suffered through this. You know, don’t be a victim. We need to police ourselves, because it’s easy to become a victim, right?” [SOFREP Internet Radio Program, [1/27/14](#)]

### **Zinke Said “A Lot of” Veterans “Complain about Everything”**

In January 2014, speaking at Hometown Helena, Zinke, speaking about veterans, said “a lot of them complain about everything.” Zinke said, “Veterans, who, a lot of them complain about everything, no one complains about Fort Harrison. So I think that facility is probably a model.” [YouTube, [1/30/14](#)]

### ***Stars And Stripes:* “[Zinke’s] Focus Has Been Trimming Back Military Bureaucracy.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke explains his philosophy of government through the 13 military combat knives he keeps in his House office. [...] Zinke may now be in a better position to do something about the bureaucracy that dogged the SEAL knife design. The 54-year-old is wrapping up his first year as the sole representative for Montana – the second biggest district behind Alaska – and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, which takes the lead in creating annual defense policy. His focus has been trimming back military bureaucracy, focusing more on the warfighting abilities and front-line leadership that make up the ‘teeth’ of U.S. might. ‘You see it almost in every aspect of government. In the military, the decisions that should be made by the [Navy enlisted] chiefs are now going to flag officers,’ Zinke said. ‘When you have 740,000 [Department of Defense] employees, which is now about equivalent to our active-duty Army and Navy combined, that’s an enormous amount of headquarters at the expense of your teeth.’ [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said VA Health Care, Traumatic Brain Injuries & Female Health Care Issues Were Top Legislative Issues**

“Q: What are the top legislative issues on the Hill right now for servicemembers and veterans? A: Certainly the VA is a concern. The number of deaths of veterans who are waiting for medical care is a significant concern. Also, we have more women serving in the military than at any other period of time, yet the VA has not done a pivot to adequately address female health care issues. Traumatic brain injury is just appearing as an issue. As an example, we would oftentimes go into abandoned hotels for SEAL training and do repetitive explosive breaching for an entire block every day. Looking back now on what that means neurologically, to have a force of that magnitude repeated over and over again, is probably similar to a boxer or the NFL.” [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Supporting The Veterans Is More Than Just Allocating Resources.”**

“Q: People talk about the public being out of touch with the 1 percent or so who serve in uniform. Is there a cultural divide between veterans and non-veterans in Congress? A: The divide really is practical experience. I think the consensus of Congress is they support the veterans. But supporting the veterans is more than just allocating resources. It is understanding what the veteran faces and understanding priority. Also, just because it is a Department of Defense budget, it shouldn’t get a pass. They have to be held to the same level of accountability as any other department. The military is the largest budget in discretionary spending -- I mean it dwarfs everybody else -- and yet we are running further behind on aircraft carriers, hulls and battlefield technology.” [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Recognize The Service In The Some Reserve Components by Honoring With Veterans Status**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law.” The bill passed by 407-0. [CQ, [11/16/15](#), H.R.1384, Vote 628, [11/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Extend Expiring Provisions Of Law Administered By The Veterans Affairs Secretary**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a: ‘Miller, R-Fla., motion to suspend the rules and pass a bill that would extend expiring provisions of law administered by the secretary of Veterans Affairs.’ The motion agreed to by a vote of 423-0. [CQ, [9/30/15](#); S. 2082, Vote 526, [9/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke On Naming Forces: “But I Think, Too, When You Say Either Delta Force or SEAL Team Six, I Think It’s Better to Say Special Operation Forces, And Leave It At That.”**

VAN SUSTEREN: “I don’t know if you see it from my perspective, and obviously, I don’t think anyone knows with certainty what is the exact right thing to do in these instances. I think the enemy, I think al Qaeda knows what we got. I think that the American people, from a transparency point of view, unless there is an overriding national security or danger to our teams or anything, that the American people ought to know, too.” ZINKE: “There are some things best left unsaid. And certainly, to verify and confirm what we have to

the enemy, I think is unwise decision. Certainly, I think American public should know we were there, eventually. But I think, too, when you say either delta force or SEAL Team Six, I think it's better to say Special Operation forces, and leave it at that. There is always a danger when you get too close to individual trigger squeezes and delay, relay information about specific units, I think there is a danger there that sets up for unintended consequences and I think it puts our troops in harms way." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [5/20/15](#)]

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**Zinke Was On Greta Van Susteren To Discuss The Raid In Syria And Special Forces Operations.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [5/20/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke Said "I Am Confident The Military Is Going To Do The Right Thing," When Asked About Bergdahl Desertion Charges**

(07:10) When asked about Bergdahl being charged with desertion, Zinke said, "Well obviously the prosecutor had enough evidence, but at this point in time it goes to the Department of Defense and I have been involved in Court Marshall proceedings before, and I am confident the military is going to do the right thing. They'll weigh the evidence, I don't think they'll be influenced by politics, they understand what is at stake. I am confident that at the end of the day the military is going to do the right thing. The Court Marshall is going to look at all of the facts. And they'll come to the conclusion that I think is correct." [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [3/30/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Received Endorsement of Combat Veterans for Congress**

In February 2014, Zinke received the endorsement of Combat Veterans for Congress. Zinke said, "I'm honored to receive the endorsement of organizations representing our honored military retirees, including Combat Veterans for Congress and Afghanistan & Iraq Veterans for Congress; statesmen like former U.S. Senator Conrad Burns (a Marine Corps veteran), and thousands of additional Montanan veterans who support protecting our freedom. I'm thankful for their support, and their confidence in knowing that I will fight to be the voice of veterans, ensuring they receive the proper care they were promised for dedicating their lives to our great country." [Zinke for Congress, [2/27/14](#)]

**PAC Endorsed by Tea Party Express PAC, Sarah Palin**

According to the Combat Veterans for Congress website, the PAC has been endorsed by the Tea Party Express PAC, former Governor Sarah Palin, former Congressman Allen West, and disgraced Congressman Michael Grimm, among others. [Combat Veterans for Congress, accessed [5/21/14](#)]

**2012 Election Cycle: Raised \$45,534**

From January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012, Combat Veterans for Congress raised \$45,534. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [5/21/14](#)]

### **2012 Election Cycle: Only Contributed \$650 to Committees**

From January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012, Combat Veterans for Congress only contributed \$650 to committees and candidates. [Federal Election Commission, accessed 5/21/14]

### **Zinke said General Shinseki Was “About as Good As They’re Gonna Get”**

In May 2014, during an interview with NBC Montana, Zinke said General Shinseki was “about as good as they’re gonna get” while discussing the recent backlogs at the VA. Zinke said, “Well, no, I think if you’re not effective, then it’s probably time. But I know him [General Shinseki] in well and I’m not sure what the answer is, who’s gonna replace him? I think a lot of it is just the system, has become out of whack. You mean you got to look at performance based and you got to look at your priorities and if you can’t muddle your way through the paperwork, and Shinseki is about as good as they’re gonna get. So I’m concerned about the VA overall, I think there needs to be a lot of work done.” [NBC Montana, [5/09/14](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Think [Shinseki’s] a Great Guy”**

In May 2014, Zinke, when referring to Secretary Shinseki, said “I think he’s a great guy.” Zinke said, “Well you know, I know General Shinseki very well, I worked for him when I was a Commander in the Special Forces in Iraq and I think he’s a great guy.” [NBC Montana, [5/09/14](#)]

### **Said Veterans was “Firmly Behind” Romney**

In August 2012, Zinke said, “the veterans and the special forces community is firmly behind a change of leadership.” Zinke said, “The veterans and the special forces community is firmly behind a change of leadership of the commander-in-chief. There is no doubt about that.” [MailOnline, 8/28/12]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted Against Providing \$15 Million in Added Funding for Veteran Health Services**

Congressman Zinke voted against an amendment that would provide \$15 million in additional funds for the Veterans Health Administration Medical Services account. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.R. 2029, Vote 192, [4/30/15](#)]

### **But Congressman Zinke Voted for Cost of Living Increases for Service-Connected Disability, Which He Receives**

Congressman Zinke voted to authorize the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans’ service-connected disability, dependency, and indemnity compensation. [CQ, [7/28/15](#); H.R. 675, Vote 472, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted to Block the House from Considering a Bill that Would Give Veterans Training in Manufacturing Jobs**

Congressman Zinke voted for blocking consideration of a bill that would create a state-based pilot program to provide grants to manufacturing employers that provide training, apprenticeships, and certification classes to veterans. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H.RES.78, [Vote #59](#), 2/04/15; CRS Summary, [1/14/15](#); Dem Leader [2/4/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted to Make it Easier to Fire Whistle Blowers at the VA**

In 2015, Congressman Zinke complained about how few people had been fired in response to the VA scandal, and advocated accountability. Yet he voted to make it easier for the leadership of the VA to fire whistleblowers who point out internal problems. [Billings Gazette, [11/10/15](#); Newsmax, [11/5/15](#); Dem Leader, [7/29/15](#); CQ, [7/29/15](#); H.R. 1994, Vote 488, [7/29/15](#)]

### **According to National Congressional GOP, Congressman Zinke’s Vote to Reduce Troop Funding was “Dangerous and Out-of-Touch”**

The NRCC released a statement criticizing a Democratic congressman for supporting an amendment that would cut defense spending, including funding for training, ammunition, and supplies for troops in the field. They

described this vote as “simply dangerous and out-of-touch with ensuring the safety and security” of Americans. Congressman Zinke also supported this amendment. [NRCC, [6/16/16](#); H.R. 5293, Vote 331, [6/16/16](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Twice Sided with the Banking Industry, Voting against Predatory Lending Protections for Soldiers**

Congressman Zinke voted to block a measure that would protect veterans and service-members by preserving their right to file a lawsuit if their mortgages violate anti-predatory lending laws. This measure would also have prevented mortgage brokers from receiving bonuses for steering service members into bad mortgages [CQ, [11/18/15](#); HR 1210, Vote 635, [11/18/15](#); Dem Leader: [11/18/15](#)]

Congressman Zinke voted in the House Armed Services Committee to delay new rules designed to shield military families from abusive terms on payday loans and other forms of expensive short-term credit. [Huffington Post, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Missed VA Funding Vote to Campaign for Trump**

In May 2016, Congressman Zinke missed the vote for the bill that would provide 2017 funding for the VA. The bill provided \$184.2 billion in funding for the VA, including military construction and housing. [CQ, [5/26/16](#); H. Res. 751, Vote 268, [5/26/16](#); MTPR [5/27/16](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Missed Two Opportunities to Give Veterans an Economic Boost Because He was on Fox News**

On May 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 7:30 pm ET, Congressman Zinke appeared on Fox News to talk about a new bill he had introduced [Rep Zinke press release, [5/19/16](#)]

Congressman Zinke missed a vote that took place at 7:14pm ET on a measure that would allow the VA, when awarding a contract, to give preference to offers from contractors that employ veterans. [CQ, [5/18/15](#); H.R. 1382, Vote 242, [5/18/15](#)]

Congressman Zinke also missed a vote at 7:07pm ET on a measure that would allow a surviving spouse of a veteran to retain the veteran’s small business ‘preferred status’ for VA contracting for up to three years after the veteran’s death. [CQ, [5/18/15](#); H.R. 1313, Vote 241, [5/18/15](#)]

## **ENLISTMENT STANDARDS**

### **Zinke: “I Think Our Active-Duty Force Needs To Remain What It Is Today. ...Let’s Cut The Bureaucracy.”**

In July 2015 Zinke was interviewed on CNN. “KEILAR: Before I let you go, since you are the first Navy SEAL elected to Congress, I want to get your perspective on the plans of the Army to cut 40,000 troops over the next couple of years. ZINKE: You know, I think our active-duty force needs to remain what it is today. If we’re going to cut, let’s cut the bureaucracy. We have over 700,000 DOD employees. You don’t have to fire anybody, but you can atrophy, you can do hiring freezes, you can look at our acquisition process. There’s a lot of areas within DOD that I think you can reform quickly. But the active-duty strength, I think it’s necessary, considering what we face, nation-states, as well as an uncertain future. In this, I absolutely agree with the chairman to come is, is that we face an uncertain world and our force structure needs to be adaptable and to a point where we can address our national security.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said “We Need To Be Very, Very Careful” About Lowering Enlistment Standards**

When asked about lowering enlistment standards in the military, Zinke said, “Things like criminal records, things that would have discounted you or disqualified you before. I think we need to be very, very careful. You know as an example, the Navy the new ships – smaller crew, more efficient - and every member is critical in

that force, and they have a standard that is strong. I think it is just in the opposite direction that we need to go.” [Twitter, @foxandfriends, [3/31/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Said “Now Is Not The Time To Lower The Standards” And “We Need To Raise The Bar”**

“MORRIS: What do you make of these new restrictions, these lowering or -- or easing of military requirements? ZINKE: Well, look, we’re -- we’re contracting our military, we’re at forces the Navy around 1917, pre-World War II is -- is the glide slope for our forces. And now is not the time to lower the standards. You know, we have a smaller force, which demands a greater amount of responsibility. And so, I think we need to do the opposite. I think we need to raise the bar because we have a smaller force.” [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT). [3/31/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Said A New Cyberspace Force “Is Interesting Because A Different Skill Set Than Historical Standards.”**

“MORRIS: Let’s take a look at some of these Pentagon proposals and get you to analyze these. Changing the age requirements, modernizing retirement pay, recruiting a new cyberspace force, allowing mid-career breaks, changing age requirements, and relaxing standards on minor drug offenses. ZINKE: Well, you know, some of it is that the cyber is interesting because a different skill set than historical standards, you’re not going to be an infantryman walking them down hills, and the physical demands aren’t as great. So, I think cyber is an interesting, you know, look at it to match requirements. So I think there’s -- there’s room in there.” [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT). [3/31/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Said He Does Not Have A Problem With Relaxing Age Requirements, But “We Need To Be Very, Very Careful” With Criminal Record Requirements**

Zinke said, “Certainly age requirements. I’ve seen physicians that -- that are out there, they have a lot of practical experience, want to serve their country. So, I don’t have a problem with that. But you know, things like criminal records, things that would’ve discounted you or disqualified you for -- I think we need to be very, very careful. You know, as an example, the Navy, the new ships, smaller crew, more efficient, and every member is critical in that force, and to have a standard that isn’t as strong, I think that’s just in the opposite direction we need to go.” [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT). [3/31/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **HEALTHCARE**

### **Zinke: “If The VA Can’t Deliver Care In An Appropriate Time And Be Competitive With What’s Out There, Then Veterans Should Be Able To Go Out There And Get Private Care.”**

“Q: The VA is moving toward more private care. Do you think that is a way to solve the agency’s problems? A: I think it should be judged on metrics. If veterans are dying waiting for health care, that is inexcusable. That means we need options to make sure they have care. If the VA can’t deliver care in an appropriate time and be competitive with what’s out there, then veterans should be able to go out there and get private care. I think we need to look at shaking the VA up, and there are some things that VA should do better than anybody. I think they should do trauma, burns and prostheses better than anybody. They should do traumatic brain injury and help with that bow wave, and post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide support.” [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Petitioned VA Secretary McDonald to Expand Fort Harrison Medical Center & Build Butte Veterans Home**

In November 2015, Zinke wrote: “Here in Montana we have projects we must advance. I petitioned VA Secretary McDonald to expand the medical center at Fort Harrison and build a new veterans home in Butte. I’ve also called for improved mental health services to help the 15,000 Montana veterans living with PTSD. Emotional wounds are just as critical as physical wounds and must be addressed. When we are losing 22 veterans a day to suicide, we all need to start working together on the problem.” [Billings Gazette, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [11/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke: “I’ve Also Called For Improved Mental Health Services To Help The 15,000 Montana Veterans Living With PTSD.”**

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### **Zinke Voted Against Exempting VA Rules Relating to Medication & Healthcare Management For Veterans from Congressional**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Pocan, D-Wis., amendment that would exempt rules issued by the Veterans Affairs Department relating to the availability of medication and healthcare management for veterans from the Congressional approval process outlined in the bill.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 167-239. [CQ, [7/28/15](#), H.Amdt. 691 to HR. 427, Vote 480, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Require VA To Submit Annual Reports to Congress, Until 2020**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Benishek, R-Mich., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would require the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to submit annual reports to Congress, until 2020, regarding the medical services it provides to veterans. The bill would also create a commission to examine the treatment of mental health issues among veterans, adjust the definition of a homeless veteran, extend by five years the downward rounding of cost of living adjustments to educational benefits under the GI Bill, and would create protocols for identifying and tracking biological implants intended for use in VA medical facilities.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 408-0. [CQ, [7/21/15](#); H.R. 2256, Vote 449, [7/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Bill That Would Make Veterans Seeking Treatment For Military Sexual Trauma Eligible for Travel Benefits**

In March 2015, Zinke cosponsored “a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.” [CQ, Accessed [3/25/15](#); H.R. 642, Cosponsored 3/23/15, Introduced [2/2/15](#)]

### **For Employee Flexibility at Billings VA Clinic, Zinke: “The Further You Can Push Down The Authority To Make Decisions, The Better Those Decisions Are.”**

“Zinke toured the Billings Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic. He spoke with staff and asked them what were their concerns when they come into work. ‘The one size fits all model from Washington doesn’t fit in Montana. The further you can push down the authority to make decisions, the better those decisions are,’ Zinke said. ‘I think we need the flexibility of the local clinics to make the right decisions, away from a staggering bureaucracy.’ [KULR, [3/11/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said It’s Hard To Get Into The VA Health Care System, “But Once They Get Into The System Billings Has Been Pretty Good.”**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke toured the Billings VA Clinic on Wednesday to get a better understanding of how the facility is meeting the needs of Montanans. Zinke said Billings VA isn’t without it’s flaws, but many steps are being taken in the right direction. ‘Overall what I hear is that it’s tough to get into the system, and there are some complaints about specific types of care and orthopedics, but once they get into the system Billings has been pretty good,’ said Zinke. ‘Moving the pharmacy over to this building has been a plus.’ [KTVQ, [3/11/15](#)]

## **Zinke Urged VA Secretary Expand Ft. Harrison Facility, Strengthen Mental Health Services & Build Butte Home**

“Following a recent tour of the Ft. Harrison facility in Helena, where Rep. Zinke was informed of VA employees using restrooms to conduct interviews and examinations to ensure privacy, Zinke wrote: ‘During my tour, several historical homes on the campus were identified as innovative solutions to the challenge in available space. Rather than building a new facility that is costly and years away, these vacant homes are a possible solution. However, red tape and bureaucracy are preventing common sense solutions.’ Zinke also pressed Secretary McDonald to begin work on the proposed Butte Veterans Home, a project that has been stuck in limbo for two years thanks to mismanagement at the VA. ‘For the past two legislative sessions, the State of Montana has appropriated their portion of the funding for this important project, yet it remains delayed in Washington... I believe there are wasteful programs that could be sacrificed in order to deliver the quality care our veterans deserve.’ Zinke continued, ‘The two existing veteran’s homes in Montana are located roughly 250 (Columbia Falls) and 450 (Glendive) miles away from Butte. To force our veterans to be hours away from their families is a hardship that does not honor the sacrifices that our veterans have made.’ [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/9/15](#)]

## **HOMELESSNESS**

### ***Breitbart: “Zinke Slammed [VA] Mismanagement [For] High Levels of Homelessness & Unemployment Among Veterans.”***

“Congressmen will give speeches and meet with Special Operations Forces units. Zinke chose October for its significance in relation to the First Special Services Forces called the ‘The Devil’s Brigade,’ performing heroic and death-defying feats in October 1943 in Italy, from which today’s Special Operations trace their roots. In an exclusive statement to Breitbart News, Zinke said he wants to raise more awareness of troops’ sacrifices: [...] In a press release, Zinke slammed Veterans Administration mismanagement and high levels of homelessness and unemployment among veterans. ‘The toll that multiple deployments — sometimes as many as a dozen in just a few years — take on the warrior and the family is incomprehensible,’ Zinke said.” [Breitbart News, [9/16/15](#)]

### ***HDN: “Zinke ...Warned Against Creating A System When Vets Are Dependent On The Federal Government.”***

“United States defense forces are endangered because the Defense Department bureaucracy is expanding and the number of active duty troops is on the decline. [...] Zinke said he supports programs aimed at helping returning veterans, but warned against creating a system when vets are dependant on the federal government. Thirty percent of today’s veterans are dependant on the government for some sort of assistance, he said. He pointed to benefits provided from those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder ‘I have seen the effects of PTSD,’ he said. ‘And PTSD is real.’ But he warned against programs that encourage PTSD victims to become wards of the government. Programs should be aimed at treatment and mandatory job training, he said.” [Havre Daily News, [6/29/15](#)]

## **POST TRAUMATIC STRESS**

### ***Zinke Spoke On The House Floor To Raise Awareness For Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder***

“Mr. Speaker I rise today in solidarity with the millions of men and women from the armed forces who are living with—or have died from—the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. June is PTSD awareness month, and in my home state of Montana PTSD impacts an estimated 15,000 veterans— 15 percent of all Montana vets. PTSD is a serious condition that touches every aspect of a person’s life. Every day, 22 veterans commit suicide nationwide, many of them struggling to live with PTSD. While healing from physical wounds is often recognized by the public, the process of mentally healing from war is often overlooked, and sometimes stigmatized. Many of our veterans who live with PTSD struggle to transition back to civilian life because they

are not given the essential resources and care they need at the VA clinics or in their local communities. I urge the Veterans Affairs Department and local communities to work together to do everything they can to combat this epidemic. God bless America and the men and women who defend her.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [6/10/15](#)]

***Havre Daily News:* “[Zinke] Warned Against Programs That Encourage PTSD Victims To Become Wards Of The Government. [Zinke Said] Programs Should Be Aimed At Treatment And Mandatory Job Training.”**

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## **RETIREMENT**

**Zinke Voted To Require a Study On The Burial Of Unclaimed Remains Of Veterans In National Cemeteries**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and for other purposes.” The bill passed by 410-0. [CQ, [11/16/15](#), H.R.1338, Vote 627, [11/16/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted for COLA for Veterans’ Service-Connected Disability, Dependency, & Indemnity Compensation**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Miller, R-Fla., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would authorize the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans’ service-connected disability, dependency, and indemnity compensation and would make changes to several benefit programs administered by the Veterans Affairs Department (VA), including requiring that veterans receive interim disability payments as each medical condition is confirmed by the VA. Additionally, the bill would require the VA to create a two-year training program for claims processors, and would extend through 2019 the temporary expansion of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC).” [CQ, [7/28/15](#); H.R. 675, Vote 472, [7/28/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Establish VA Special Assistant at HUD**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Luetkemeyer, R-Mo., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would establish a special assistant for Veterans’ Affairs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Under the measure, the special assistant would be responsible for ensuring veterans fair access to HUD housing and homeless assistance programs, coordinating all HUD programs and activities relating to veterans, and serving as a HUD liaison with the Department of Veterans Affairs.” The motion was agreed to 412-1. [CQ, [7/14/15](#); H.R. 251, Vote 435, [7/14/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted to Waive Fee for Veterans & Their Spouses Applying for SBA Express Loans**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Chabot, R-Ohio, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would permanently waive the guarantee fee for veterans and their spouses applying for Small Business Administration (SBA) express loans, beginning Oct. 1, 2015. The bill defines eligibility for the waiver based on the veteran status of the loan applicant, rather than whether the business is considered a veteran-owned small business. The bill would also require SBA to report to Congress within 180 days of enactment on the extent to which the program’s outreach efforts have increased female veterans’ access to capital as small-business owners.” The motion was agreed to 410-1. [CQ, [7/13/15](#); H.R.2499, Vote 434, [7/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Provide Veterans Who Received An Honorable Discharge With An I.D. Card**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Wenstrup, R-Ohio, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the Veterans Affairs Department to issue an identification card to any veteran covered under the bill who requests such a card and who was discharged from the armed forces under honorable conditions. Veterans would need to present a copy of their discharge form or other official document that describes their service and also pay a fee to cover the cost of the card.” The motion was agreed to by a 402-0 vote (2/3 required). [CQ, [5/18/15](#); H.R. 91, Vote 240, [5/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Require The VA To Issue An Identification Card To Any Veteran Who Requests A Card And Who Was Discharged From The Armed Forces**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: “Abraham, R-La., motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would require the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to issue an identification card to any veteran who requests such a card and who was discharged from the armed forces. To receive a card, veterans must present a copy of their DD-214 form or other official document that describes their service and pay a fee to cover the cost of the card. As passed by the Senate, the measure would exclude House language specifying that the card would be available only for veterans with an honorable discharge from the military.” The bill was passed 411-0. [CQ, [7/7/15](#); H.R. 91, Vote 391, [7/7/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Getting More Resources To Veterans In Need Through A Retirement Or “Exchange” System**

“U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke (R-MT) has been touring the Treasure State to discuss issues that matter most to Montanans. On Friday, he stopped by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Great Falls. He talked with veterans about military issues that he is addressing in Washington D.C. [...] He also spoke about the getting more resources to veterans in need. ‘We have to look at making sure those resources go to veterans that really need it. We should look at a retirement system, or we should look at our exchange system. We should look at what’s happening on the soft side of the military to make sure we are administering it in a streamlined way and not squandering resources,’ Zinke said.” [KRTV, [5/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Delay Predatory Lending Protections For Soldiers**

“House Democrats successfully knocked down a GOP plan early Thursday morning that would have blocked predatory lending protections for American soldiers. Republicans had slipped the deregulation measure into the National Defense Authorization Act -- a major bill that sets the military’s funding levels. The bill would have imposed a one-year delay on new Department of Defense rules designed to shield military families from abusive terms on payday loans and other forms of expensive short-term credit. Politicians frequently seek to delay measures in order to buy time to marshal the votes needed to fully repeal them.” Zinke voted to delay protections. [Huffington Post, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Intro. Bill to Ensure Disabled & Deceased Veterans & Military Were Not Financially Penalized for Student Loans**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke joined with Arizona Democratic Congressman Ruben Gallego in introducing the Veterans Education Tax Security Act (VETS Act). The VETS Act will ensure that disabled and deceased veterans and deceased members of the Armed Forces are not financially penalized when their federal student loans are lawfully discharged.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/24/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “It Closes The Loophole That Punishes Disabled Veterans For Loan Forgiveness And Makes It Easier For Them To Make A Living When They Return Home From The Battlefield.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) said, ‘Our veterans have already given everything they have to support and defend our nation—some of them sacrificing life and limb. It’s our duty to honor and support them when they return home. Veterans suffer higher unemployment than their civilian counterparts, and many are forced into low-paying jobs when they return, despite their education or specialized training, making it more difficult to make a living. I am proud to join Congressman Gallego in introducing the VETS Act because it closes the loophole that

punishes disabled veterans for loan forgiveness and makes it easier for them to make a living when they return home from the battlefield.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/24/15](#)]

## **VA EMPLOYEES**

### **Zinke Op-Ed Said VA Failed Veterans Because Only “Three” People Were Fired As A Result Of The VA Scandal**

In November 2015, Zinke wrote: “The Veterans Administration is failing our veterans, and it has been for a long time. It’s been two years since we first learned of the corruption and criminal negligence at all levels of the VA. Stories of veterans put on long wait lists, rationed care and inadequate service sounded like Soviet-era atrocities, not something that could happen here at home. It took more than two years after the news reports for the first criminal charges to finally come. Yet today there are 50 percent more veterans on wait lists than when the scandal first broke, and a recent report found one-third of veterans waiting for health care at the VA have already passed away. To make it worse, out of the 280,000 individuals identified as having a part in the manufactured long wait times, only three were fired. This is unacceptable.” [Billings Gazette, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [11/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said You Can Count “On One Hand” The Amount Of Firings The VA Has Made Since the Scandal**

“Saying he has a gut feeling the Russian jetliner that crashed in Egypt on Saturday was brought down by Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists, Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke tells Newsmax TV the crash is a reminder of how real such threats are. [...] Zinke also talked about the recent cases of veterans mistakenly declared dead and cut off from their benefits by the Veterans Administration. ‘It is about accountability,’ he said. ‘When the new secretary came in, you might recall, ‘Well, I’m going to fire 1,000,’” Zinke said. The actual firings can be counted on one hand, he added. [Newsmax Media, [11/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting VA Secretary from Removing Any VA Employee If They Filed A Whistleblower Complaint**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Takano, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Veterans Affairs with instructions to report back to the House with an amendment to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) from removing any VA employee from their position if that employee has filed a whistleblower complaint related to a threat to public safety or prohibited personnel practices.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 184-241. [CQ, [7/29/15](#); H.R. 1994, Vote 488, [7/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Expand VA Ability to Remove or Demote Employees Based On Performance Or Misconduct**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of a bill that would expand the ability of the Veterans Affairs (VA) Department to remove or demote VA employees based on performance or misconduct. The bill would also protect VA whistleblowers that report misconduct, modify the Senior Executive Service performance appraisal process, establish an 18-month probationary period for new VA employees, and place limits on administrative leave and bonuses within the VA.” The bill passed by a vote of 256-170. [CQ, [7/29/15](#); H.R. 1994, Vote 489, [7/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Give VA Authority to Suspend Without Pay Employees Whose Performance Or Misconduct Threatens Public Health & Safety**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Takano, D-Calif., amendment that would give the Veterans Affairs Department the authority to suspend without pay any employee whose performance or misconduct threatens public health and safety.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 191-233. [CQ, [7/29/15](#); H.Amdt.693 to H.R. 1994, Vote 487, [7/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Did Not Vote To Allow The VA To Give Preference To Private Contractors Employing Veterans**

In May 2015, Zinke did not vote for: “Wenstrup, R-Ohio, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would authorize the Veterans Affairs Department to give preference to private contractors that employ veterans. The measure would provide that in awarding a contract or task order for procuring goods or services, the Veterans Affairs Department may give preference to offers that employ veterans on a full-time basis. The department would determine such preference based on the percentage of full-time employees who are veterans.” The motion was agreed to by a 404-0 vote (2/3 required). [CQ, [5/18/15](#); H.R. 1382, Vote 242, [5/18/15](#)]

### **Said “You Need an Independent Audit” of Patient Care**

In May 2014, after being asked if there should be an audit of patient care in Montana, Zinke said he thought “you need an independent audit to really find out what’s happening.” Zinke said, “Well, yeah, I think you need to hold people accountable, that’s part of the problem, you can’t get the right answers, you can’t get any answers out of Washington, DC, at least truthful ones. So I think you need an independent audit to really find out what’s happening. You know, truth matters.” [NBC Montana, [5/09/14](#)]

### **Said “Got to Get the Bureaucracy Out of” the VA**

In May 2014, during an interview with NBC Montana, Zinke said that “they got to get the bureaucracy out of” the VA. Zinke said, “I think the VA overall is very, very mixed. Long lines, they have taken the course of action sometimes is to eliminate, you know, the databases so the lines appear to be shorter. I think there is a lot of work to be done. I think it’s similar to the rest of the government, they got to get the bureaucracy out of it and make sure you’re performance based.” [NBC Montana, [5/09/14](#)]

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPS**

### **Zinke Announced Formation Of Veterans Advisory Committee**

“Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke announced the formation of his Veterans Advisory Committee, a diverse group of veterans, professionals and advocates from across Montana formed to provide on-the-ground intelligence, insight and recommendations to Rep. Zinke. More than 10 percent of Montanans are veterans. As the only veteran in Montana’s Congressional Delegation, Zinke also has six veterans on staff representing the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy, Army and Air Force. Zinke also serves on the House Armed Services Committee. ‘I’m honored to have the leadership of retired Brigadier General Stovall and the participation of 20 Montana veterans and advocates from across the state,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘As the only veteran representing Montana at the federal level, I believe I have a higher level of responsibility to do absolutely everything I can in my power to provide for our troops and honor the promises we made to those who heard the call to serve. This advisory committee will be instrumental in carrying out that mission.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “As The Only Veteran Representing Montana At The Federal Level, I Believe I Have A Higher Level Of Responsibility To Do Absolutely Everything I Can In My Power To Provide For Our Troops And Honor The Promises We Made To Those Who Heard The Call To Serve.”**

“Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke announced the formation of his Veterans Advisory Committee, a diverse group of veterans, professionals and advocates from across Montana formed to provide on-the-ground intelligence, insight and recommendations to Rep. Zinke. More than 10 percent of Montanans are veterans. As the only veteran in Montana’s Congressional Delegation, Zinke also has six veterans on staff representing the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy, Army and Air Force. Zinke also serves on the House Armed Services Committee. ‘I’m honored to have the leadership of retired Brigadier General Stovall and the participation of 20 Montana veterans and advocates from across the state,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘As the only veteran representing Montana at the federal level, I believe I have a higher level of responsibility to do absolutely everything I can in my power to provide for our troops and honor the promises we made to those who heard the call to serve. This advisory committee will be instrumental in carrying out that mission.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/5/15](#)]

## **Zinke Appointed Chief Executive Officer And Chairman Of QS Energy, Inc, Gregory M. Bigger To The Veterans Advisory Committee**

“QS Energy, Inc. (the ‘Company’) (OTCQX: QSEP), a developer of integrated technology solutions for the energy industry, today announced that Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Gregory M. Bigger, has been appointed to Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke’s Veterans Advisory Committee. The Committee is a diverse group of veterans, professionals and advocates from across Montana formed to provide on-the-ground intelligence, insight and recommendations to Representative Zinke. ‘I am deeply honored by my appointment to the Montana Veterans Affairs Committee, and would like to thank my friend and fellow veteran, Congressman Ryan Zinke, for the opportunity to serve on behalf of those who have sacrificed so much to protect this great nation,’ Mr. Bigger commented. ‘As a proud former member of the United States Marine Corps, I understand that sacrifice, and will utilize every resource at my disposal to serve as a voice for our veterans.’ [PennWell Corporation, [10/6/15](#)]

## **Greg Bigger Donated \$2000 To Zinke For Congress In 2014.**

[FEC, Accessed [10/6/15](#)]

## **Zinke: “Correct Some Of The Gross Criminal Misconduct That Built A Culture Of Corruption At The VA.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted in favor of H.R. 1994 known as the VA Accountability Act of 2015. This legislation allows the VA to remove or demote an employee based on performance or misconduct. It also enhances whistleblower protections so VA employees can come forward without fears of intimidation or retribution. ‘The Obama Administration is failing our veterans, and they have been for a long time. It’s been two years since we first learned of the rampant corruption, criminal negligence, and dereliction of duty at all levels at Veterans Affairs (VA). Stories of veterans put on fabricated long wait lists, enduring rationed care, and suffering from inadequate service sounded like Soviet-era atrocities, not something that could be happening here at home—let alone to the men and women who have put their lives on the line for ours so many times,’ Rep. Zinke said. ‘This law will finally hold people accountable, increase transparency, and correct some of the gross criminal misconduct that built a culture of corruption at the VA. I proudly cosponsored this important bipartisan legislation and I urge it’s swift and bipartisan passage in the Senate.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/30/15](#)]

## **Zinke Office: “Zinke Petitioned VA Secretary McDonald To Expand The Medical Center At Fort Harrison And Build A New Veterans Home In Butte.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted in favor of H.R. 1994 known as the VA Accountability Act of 2015. This legislation allows the VA to remove or demote an employee based on performance or misconduct. [...] Zinke has been an outspoken advocate for improving the VA facilities and services in Montana. One of his first priorities after being sworn in was touring the VA facilities and seeing first-hand the situation on the ground. Zinke petitioned VA Secretary McDonald to expand the Medical Center at Fort Harrison and build a new veterans home in Butte. He has also called for improved mental health services to help the 15,000 Montana veterans living with PTSD. Zinke also has five veterans on his staff.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/30/15](#)]

## **Zinke Said WH Was “Failing Our Veterans” with “Rampant Corruption, Criminal Negligence, And Dereliction Of Duty” VA**

In July 2015, Zinke wrote: “My daughter is a Navy Diver, my son-in-law is an active duty Navy SEAL, and I spent 23 years as a Navy SEAL Commander, leading countless young men through BUDS training and commanding thousands more men and women in Iraq. I know the sacrifices our veterans have made, the incredible leadership skills they develop, and the deep love of country they harbor. But you don’t have to be a veteran to know that as a nation and a government we are not doing enough to honor these brave men and women. The Obama Administration is failing our veterans, and they have been for a long time. It’s been two

years since we first learned of the rampant corruption, criminal negligence, and dereliction of duty at all levels at Veterans Affairs (VA). Stories of veterans put on fabricated long wait lists, enduring rationed care, and suffering from inadequate service sounded like Soviet-era atrocities, not something that could be happening here at home—let alone to the men and women who have put their lives on the line for ours so many times.” [Red Alert Politics, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said That Despite The Veteran Affairs Scandal, The “VA Is Worse Than It’s Ever Been.”**

In July 2015, Zinke wrote: “The worst part of the entire situation though is despite the administration’s platitudes, things have not gotten better; in fact, the VA is worse than it’s ever been. It took more than two years after the Government Accountability Office reported a backlog in disability claims, and over a year after news of the wait time scandal broke, for the first criminal charges to finally come. There are 50 percent more veterans on long wait lists than when the scandal started, and a new report found nearly one-third of veterans waiting for healthcare at the VA have already passed away. And, out of the 280,000 individuals identified as having a part in the manufactured long wait times, only three VA employees were fired. This is unacceptable.” [Red Alert Politics, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said There Were “50% More Veterans On Long Wait Lists [...] Nearly One-Third Of Veterans Waiting For Healthcare At The VA Have Already Passed Away,” And “Only Three VA Employees Were Fired” Since The Scandal**

In July 2015, Zinke wrote: “The worst part of the entire situation though is despite the administration’s platitudes, things have not gotten better; in fact, the VA is worse than it’s ever been. It took more than two years after the Government Accountability Office reported a backlog in disability claims, and over a year after news of the wait time scandal broke, for the first criminal charges to finally come. There are 50 percent more veterans on long wait lists than when the scandal started, and a new report found nearly one-third of veterans waiting for healthcare at the VA have already passed away. And, out of the 280,000 individuals identified as having a part in the manufactured long wait times, only three VA employees were fired. This is unacceptable.” [Red Alert Politics, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported The Veteran’s Affairs Accountability Act Which Would “Codify The Right Of The VA To Demote Or Fire An Employee For Poor Job Performance Or Misconduct.”**

In July 2015, Zinke wrote: “Our veterans have put their lives on the line for us day in and day out; they deserve the absolute best we have to offer. This week the House is voting on the Veteran’s Affairs Accountability Act (H.R.1994) which will codify the right of the VA to demote or fire an employee for poor job performance or misconduct. It will also enhance whistleblower protections so VA employees are not afraid of intimidation or retribution. This law will finally hold people accountable, increase transparency, and correct some of the gross criminal misconduct that built a culture of corruption at the VA. House Republicans remain committed to improving care and services for our veterans. Earlier this year we passed a budget that allocates \$4.6 billion more dollars to the VA than last year, coupled with measures like the Veterans Access to Community Care Act of 2015 to improve local care for rural veterans and the Hire More Heroes Act of 2015, we are making progress on multiple fronts.” [Red Alert Politics, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For \$171.1 Billion Veteran Affairs, Military Construction, And Military Housing Appropriations Bill**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would provide \$171.1 billion in fiscal 2016 for the Veterans Affairs department, military construction and military housing. It would provide \$76.6 billion in discretionary spending, including \$60.2 billion for veterans’ health programs. The bill would provide \$94.5 billion in mandatory spending for veterans’ service-connected compensation, benefits and pensions. The total also includes \$7.7 billion for military construction, including \$1.4 billion for military family housing. The bill would provide \$167.3 billion in advance appropriations for certain VA medical care accounts for fiscal 2017.” The bill passed by 255-163. [CQ, [4/30/15](#), H.R. 2029, Vote 193, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Providing \$15 Million In Additional Funds For VA Health Administration Medical Services**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against: “Kirkpatrick, D-Ariz., motion to recommit the bill to the House Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would to provide \$15 million in additional funds for the Veterans Health Administration Medical Services account. The increase would be offset from the Departmental Administration General Administration account.” The amendment was rejected 181-236. [CQ, [4/30/15](#), H.R. 2029, Vote 192, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Kill An Amendment To Increase Spending Levels In The VA**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for “Dent, R-Pa., point of order that the Bishop, D-Ga., amendment addresses sections of the bill that have not yet been read, and is consequently out of order. The Bishop amendment would increase various spending levels in accounts within the Veterans Affairs department.” The ruling of the chair was sustained by a 237-180 vote. [CQ, [4/29/15](#); H.R. 2029, Vote 178, [4/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Striking Provisions to Provide Overseas Contingency Operations Funds For Military Construction**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Van Hollen, D-Md., amendment that would strike provisions in the bill that would provide funding for military construction projects for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps with the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds.” The amendment was rejected by a 191-229 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt.123 to HR 2029, Vote 184, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Allowing Overseas Contingency Operations Funds To Be Used For U.S. Air Force Military Construction Projects**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against against: “Mulvaney, R-S.C., amendment that would strike provisions in the bill that would provide funding for military construction projects for the U.S. Air Force with the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds.” The amendment was rejected by a 192-229 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt. 124 to H.R. 2029, Vote 185, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Allowing Overseas Contingency Operations Funds To Be Used For Defense-Wide Military Construction Projects**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against the “Mulvaney, R-S.C., amendment that would strike provisions in the bill that would provide funding for military construction projects Defense-wide with the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds.” The amendment was rejected by a 190-231 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt. 125 to H.R. 2029, Vote 186, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Allowing Funds To Be Used To House Guantanamo Bay Prisoners Within The U.S.**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Nadler, D-N.Y., amendment that would strike a section in the bill that would prohibit funds from being used to house within the U.S. any Guantanamo Bay facility prisoners.” The amendment was rejected by a 167-254 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt. 126 to H.R. 2029, Vote 187, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Allow VA Doctors To Recommend Medical Marijuana In States Where It Is Legal**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Blumenauer, D-Ore., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to implement, administer or enforce the Veterans Health Administration directive that prohibits VA providers from seeking recommendations or opinions regarding a veteran’s participation in a state marijuana program.” The amendment was rejected by a 210-213 vote. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); H.Amdt. 130 to H.R. 2029, Vote 188, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Tracked Veterans Issues & “Personally” Reviewed Them “On A Weekly Or Bi-Weekly Basis.”**

(41:21) ZINKE: “Zach Gamble a former Navy Seal is part of the congressional office and he makes sure that anyone that has a problem with the VA, any veteran issue we make sure we document it, we track it and I

personally look at those, and review those cases on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.” [YouTube, Sarah Yovetich, [4/26/15](#)]

## **VETERANS PROGRAMS**

### **Zinke Voted To Extend Exemption from Ch. 7 Bankruptcy Means Testing for 4 Yrs for Reservists & National Guard**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Goodlatte, R-Va., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would extend the exemption from Chapter 7 bankruptcy means testing for four additional years, for reservists and National Guard members. The bill would continue to require that this exemption applies only to reservists and National Guard members who have served on active duty for at least 90 days since Sept. 11, 2001, and who file for bankruptcy within 540 days of being released from active duty.” The motion was agreed to by a 419-1 vote. [CQ, [12/16/15](#); H.R. 4246, Vote 696, [12/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said 401(K)-Style Accounts For Everybody In The Military Would Create “More Flexib[ility]”**

“Q: As someone who put in over 20 years of service, do you think the military retirement overhaul in the 2016 NDAA – providing 401(k)-style accounts to everybody -- is a good deal for those who sign up in the future? A: It’s certainly more flexible. Some of the concern prior to this was individuals who served their country for eight years or 10 years would be without any transportable mechanism for retirement. The downside is there is some concern that it is going to be harder to hold people in because you can leave the service at 12-14 years. My response was, if you’re not happy and if you don’t feel like you’re being effective in your job then you probably shouldn’t be in the military anyway.” [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Excluding Military or Veterans from Provisions That Would Prohibit Lawsuits Against Creditors**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against: “Thompson, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report back to the House with an amendment that would that would exclude consumers that are veterans or members of the armed forces from those provided for under provisions of the bill, specifically those provisions that would prohibit lawsuits against creditors that are depository institutes and fail to comply with certain requirements of a home mortgage loan.” The motion was rejected 184-242. [CQ, [11/18/15](#); HR 1210, Vote 635, [11/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for Funds to Army Corps Of Engineers to Hire Veterans & Members Of The Armed Forces**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Gibbs, R-Ohio, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers with funds for a Veterans Curation Program (VCP), which would hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation of artifacts and nationally significant items uncovered in their work.” The motion was agreed to by a 422-3 vote. [CQ, [11/17/15](#); H.R. 3114, Vote 632, [11/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Set Aside Federal-Aid Highway Project Funding For Veteran-Owned Small Businesses**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would amend the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act to set aside federal-aid highway project funding for veteran-owned small businesses. The bill would apply to the reauthorization of federal highway programs.” The motion was agreed to by a 285-138 vote. [CQ, [11/17/15](#); H.R. 1694, Vote 631, [11/17/15](#)]

### **Billings Gazette: Zinke Wrote Letters Of Support For Veteran Treatment Courts**

“Between them, four of last week’s veterans treatment court graduates have 19 DUI convictions. All were on paths to prison. But earlier in their lives, they had served honorably in the U.S. armed forces. [...] Staff members from the offices of U.S. Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines attended CAMO graduation to read congratulations from their bosses. Congressional backing is important. Tester, Daines and Rep. Ryan Zinke

wrote letters in support of the federal grant as did Mike Batista, director of the Montana Department of Corrections.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [11/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Op-Ed Claimed The Veterans Choice Act Failed Because The Administration “Raided Choice Funding.”**

In November 2015, Zinke wrote: In November 2015, Zinke wrote: “The Choice Act was supposed to fix these systematic failures, but this administration’s implementation of it has failed. They have raided Choice funding and created a complicated system that has only spawned confusion and ineptitude. We need to strengthen policies that allow veterans to access care outside the VA. A promise was made that is not being delivered.” [Billings Gazette, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [11/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Did Not Vote to Allow Surviving Spouses of Veterans to Keep “Preferred Status” for Small Business for 3 Yrs**

In May 2015, Zinke did not vote for: “Wenstrup, R-Ohio, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would allow a surviving spouse of a veteran who has a service-connected disability rating of less than 100 percent, and who does not die because of the service-connected disability, to retain the veteran’s small business ‘preferred status’ for Veterans Affairs Department contracting for up to three years after the veteran’s death.” The motion was agreed to by a 403-0 vote (2/3 required). [CQ, [5/18/15](#); H.R. 1313, Vote 241, [5/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act Of 2015**

On March 24, 2015, Zinke voted in favor of a: “motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would direct the Veterans Affairs Department to annually submit to Congress a future-years veterans program with its budget request. The program would reflect estimated expenditures and proposed appropriations for that fiscal year and succeeding four fiscal years, and would include a five-year plan for the department to meet its commitment to veterans, including the resources needed to do so. The measure also would require quadrennial reviews of the strategy for meeting the commitment to veterans and resources needed to meet the commitment.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 420-0. [CQ, [3/24/15](#); H.R. 216, Vote 134, [3/24/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Bill To Accelerate Skills Training For US Veterans**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of H.R. 344, a bill to “to carry out a five-year pilot program (to be known as the Veterans Manufacturing Employment Program) to award competitive grants to three states for the establishment and administration of a State Manufacturing Employment Program to make grants to manufacturing employers and labor-management organizations that provide training, on-job training, apprenticeships, and certification classes to eligible veterans.” The previous question passed, 242 to 183. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H.RES.78, [Vote #59](#), 2/04/15; CRS Summary, [1/14/15](#)]

## **VETERANS & BORDER PROTECTION**

### **Zinke Voted to Require DHS to Expedite Hiring Recently Separated or Soon To Be Separated U.S. Service Members**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a: “McSally, R-Ariz., motion to suspend the rules and pass a bill, as amended, that would require the Homeland Security Department (DHS) to expedite hiring recently separated or soon to be separated U.S. servicemembers as Custom and Border Protection (CBP) officers. The bill would require placing CBP officials at recruiting events, partnering with regional military bases, expediting applicants with transferrable skills, and streamlining transfers of relevant background investigations and security clearances.” Motion was agreed to 410-0. [CQ, [9/28/15](#); H.R. 2835, Vote 519, [9/28/15](#)]

## **VETERAN SUICIDE**

### **Voted For Bill To Help Prevent Veteran Suicide**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that would “designed to launch new community outreach efforts and recruit more psychiatrists to slow the nation’s estimated 22 veterans suicides each day ... The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention bill, named for a Marine veteran activist who took his own life in 2011, would require an annual evaluation of VA suicide prevention programs, to determine which are working and which need to be replaced. It would mandate a new website better detailing the department’s many mental health resources, and create new peer support programs for veterans outreach. Supporters say both of those are relatively simple changes which could produce immediate aid for veterans in crisis. The measure would also start a pilot program to repay student loans of psychiatry students, helping VA officials more quickly fill those specialty vacancies.” The bill passed 403 to 0. [HR 203, [Vote #17](#), 1/12/15; Military Times, [1/12/15](#)]

## **WOMEN VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS**

### **Zinke’s Bill to Register Women for the Draft was Scare Tactic to Increase Opposition to Women in Combat Policies**

In 2016, the *Washington Post* wrote, “In the House, two Republicans have taken a different approach. The Draft America’s Daughters Act, sponsored by Rep. Duncan D. Hunter (Calif.), a Marine veteran, and Rep. Ryan Zinke (Mont.), a former Navy SEAL, would require women to register for the draft. Hunter and Zinke - who oppose opening combat jobs to women and plan on voting against their own bill - said they hope the legislation will force a larger debate over the wisdom of the Obama administration’s policies on women in combat.” [Washington Post, 2/19/16]

### **Tactic Was Used in 1970s & 1980s to Block the Equal Rights Amendment**

The *Post* noted, “The question of forcing women to register for the draft has roots in conservative policy circles and the culture battles of the 1970s and 1980s. In an effort to block the Equal Rights Amendment in Congress, conservative icon Phyllis Schlafly argued that passage of the bill would compel the federal government to force women to register for the draft. At the time, memories of the disastrous Vietnam War were fresh, and no one was in favor of forcing women into military service.” [Washington Post, 2/19/16]

### **Feminists & Military Experts Supported the Idea**

The *Post* continued, “Today, the roles have reversed and the strongest support for forcing women to register for the draft comes from feminists and military experts who pressed to open up combat jobs to women who can meet the physical requirements. ‘This is a fundamental responsibility of citizenship,’ said Nora Bensahel, a scholar in residence at American University’s School of International Service. Cruz’s objection to forcing women to register for the draft implies that they are ‘second-class citizens,’ Bensahel said. ‘To exclude women from that fundamental citizenship is incredibly disturbing.’” [Washington Post, 2/19/16]

### **Zinke Criticized the Navy Secretary for Pushing & Criticized the Decision to Allow Women in Combat**

In 2016, the *Washington Examiner* printed a commentary by Joel Gehrke. In January, at a Steamboat Institute conference in Colorado, Zinke said, “With [Navy Secretary Ray] Mabus, I find myself extraordinarily frustrated with the secretary on so many issues because I think he has viewed his role to fundamentally change the culture of the military... And there’s a lot of the culture of the military that I do think we need to have paused and look at it. But we always have to look at the military as the core mission is to defeat our enemies.” Gehrke noted, “Mabus’ decision to overrule Marine Corps commanders who opposed allowing women into combat jobs particularly frustrated Zinke. ‘When the Marines, who I trust, say that when you intermix that they are less combat effective, that women get hurt more and they get injured more, I think that report was true,’ he said. ‘You do need women on the battlefield in asymmetric warfare, because I tell you, men can’t go everywhere ... and everyone should play the role they can.’” [Washington Examiner, Joel Gehrke Commentary, 2/01/16]

### **Zinke Opposed Allowing Women in Military Combat Roles; Said it Would Cost Lives**

“In my opinion we’re not ready. This is not a Hollywood movie,” said former Navy SEAL commander and Montana State Sen. Ryan Zinke, reacting sharply Wednesday to news the Obama Administration will drop the prohibition against women serving in military combat roles, warning it is ‘nearly certain’ to cost lives.” [Texasinsider, [1/24/13](#)]

### **Zinke: “We Have To Be Cognizant That The Anatomy Is Different”**

“Can women be effective SEALs under the current standards? A: In my career, there have been women operators that I’ve worked with, and I think everyone has their roles and missions. I look at the Marine Corps study and I think the Marine Corps had it right. What is important is mission success, and everyone needs to do their duty to the capacity they can. It is not a question of being tough, it is a question of putting the right person in the right place. Not everyone needs to be a quarterback on a football team. Certainly women have a more significant role in the military than ever before, and I think we will continue to see that. Walter Reed (National Medical Center) has a significant number of women with weight-bearing injuries that have sentenced them to a lifetime of disability, so we have to be cognizant that the anatomy is different, and we want to make sure someone can go through a career without having to have a disability at the end.” [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Op-Ed: Zinke Said VA Healthcare For Women Needed To Be Improved**

In November 2015, Zinke wrote: “We also need to improve health care for women veterans, which is why I was an early sponsor of the Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act. Women are serving in the military at historic rates. I serve in the House alongside many decorated female veterans who have led troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A 2014 report by Disabled Veterans of America found women’s health care within the VA system to be grossly inadequate. Besides having a systematic culture that is unwelcoming to women, more than 30 percent of VA health centers do not have a gynecologist, and more than 15 percent don’t have a designated women’s health provider. What’s more, the study finds the transition from soldier to civilian is even tougher for women. Joblessness for female veterans is nearly 10 percent, and PTSD rates shadow the rates of men. Whether you’re a man or a woman, you should get the same degree of health care from our VA, and it should be the absolute best quality of care the United States is capable of providing.” [Billings Gazette, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [11/10/15](#)]

### **Female Veteran Letter Criticized Zinke For Remarks About Women In Combat Missions Being Weak & A Distraction**

“Montanans have a long history of stepping up to serve our country. We put our lives on the line to stand up for our American and Montana values. But when it comes to standing up for service women and female veterans, Congressman Ryan Zinke has fallen short. Congressman Zinke has repeatedly referred to women serving in combat missions as ‘weak’ and ‘a distraction.’” [Montana Standard, Elizabeth Wasson, [5/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said VA Needed To Make Sure Women’s Health Care Issues Were “Appropriately Addressed”**

“U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke (R-MT) has been touring the Treasure State to discuss issues that matter most to Montanans. On Friday, he stopped by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Great Falls. He talked with veterans about military issues that he is addressing in Washington D.C. [...] Zinke also talked about women playing a more active role in the military and the struggles they are now facing when it comes to the Veterans Affairs system. He noted, ‘As women leave active duty and leave the service, the VA system has to pivot to make sure that women’s healthcare issues are appropriately addressed and the VA is behind. I’m an advocate of the VA using some of their research dollars to form a plan because there is no excuse.’” [KRTV, [5/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Amendment Eliminating a 30-Day Waiting Period Before Military Opened Up Combat Jobs for Women**

“Members of the House Armed Services Committee agreed to an amendment to the 2016 defense policy bill that would modify a 30-day waiting period before military services finally open up combat jobs for women. [...] The amendment, introduced by Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.), would have eliminated the 30-day waiting

period, since it meant 30 days of consecutive Congressional days, which she said could delay women serving in those positions or as long as six months.” [The Hill, [4/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Drew Rebuke For Saying “Enemy Doesn’t Recognize Men Or Women In A Uniform. The Enemy Recognizes Weakness,” But Said He Did Not Call Women Weak And Was Not Referring To Women In The Statement**

“Retired Navy SEAL Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.), who opposed the amendment, drew a sharp rebuke from Gabbard after saying the ‘enemy doesn’t recognize men or women in a uniform. The enemy recognizes weakness.’ ‘Women have been serving in these ground combat battles for quite some time,’ Gabbard said. Zinke responded that he did not call women weak, and was not referring to women in that statement.” [The Hill, [4/29/15](#)]

### **Washington Times: Zinke “Raised Eyebrows” When He Said “Female Anatomy’s A Little Different” When He Argued 30 Days Was Not Too Long For Women To Wait For Combat Jobs To Be Integrated.**

“Debate on that amendment quickly devolved into a heated discussion on the merits of women in combat, with several of the committee’s female combat veterans speaking up and noting that debating the issue is pointless since women in fact are already serving in combat in many places. [...] Ryan Zinke, Montana Republican and a former SEAL, raised some eyebrows when he stated that ‘female anatomy’s a little different’ during the debate, during which he argued 30 days isn’t too long to wait to make sure integration is done right.” [Washington Times, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Generally Backs Extending Contraceptive Access For Service Members**

“Speier’s measure also would permit all Tricare beneficiaries, including members of the Reserves, National Guard and military dependents, to obtain birth control with no copayment at pharmacies off military bases. [...] At least one Republican has voiced potential support for the bill: Freshman Rep. Ryan Zinke, an Armed Services member, says he has not seen the exact text of Speier’s bill yet but generally backs extending contraceptive access for service members. The Montana Republican is a former Navy SEAL officer and could have an influential voice on the panel.” [CQ, [3/26/15](#)]

### **Voiced Opposition to Women in Frontline Since “Distractions Result in Death”**

In January 2013, Zinke voiced his opposition to women in frontline combat positions, since “distractions result in death.” Zinke said, “Let’s face it, it’s physically demanding, and distractions result in death. We’re not talking about mature men such as Panetta. We’re talking about 20-year-olds away from their families, close-quarters, out in the field. Relationships are going to happen, as they happen today on our naval vessels.” [Newsmax, 1/23/13]

*NOTE: This article, as of 5/15/14, was no longer on Newsmax, but was available on NewsBank. Articles about Zinke that were published on Newsmax before and after this article are still available on Newsmax*

### **Zinke: “Will Lead Unfortunately to a Loss of Life”**

In January 2013, Zinke said that women on the frontline of combat “will result in unintended consequences that will lead unfortunately to a loss of life.” Zinke said, “I think it is hasty and will result in unintended consequences that will lead unfortunately to a loss of life... I believe that is nearly certain.” [Newsmax, 1/23/13]

### **Said it “Provides a Distraction”**

In January 2013, Zinke voiced his opposition to women in frontline combat positions, since “it provides a distraction and it weakens the force.” Zinke said, “Unilaterally across the board, there’s an unintended consequence [to allowing women on frontline combat], I think it provides a distraction and it weakens the force.” [YouTube, [1/28/13](#)]

### **Zinke: “Jeopardizes the Capability of Conducting the Mission”**

In January 2013, Zinke said that allowing women in frontline combat “jeopardizes the capability of conducting the mission.” Zinke said, “The short answer is yes. There’s an unintended consequence. You know, this administration, is enamored with Hollywood and the difference is that war is not Hollywood. It’s not a Demi Moore movie, it’s not Star Wars, and there’s consequences. War is a very serious and oftentimes it can be face-to-face, hand-to-hand, breath-to-breath, close quarter battle. And anything that jeopardizes the capability of conducting the mission, I think is wrong. And we should accept that there’s differences between males and females.” [YouTube, [1/28/13](#)]

### **“Evolution of Man [...] Is Slower than the Cultural Evolution”**

In January 2013, during an interview with Newsmax, Zinke said that “the evolution of man, I think, is slower than the cultural evolution.” Zinke said, “I think it’s going to have women wanting to be the first SEAL for the purpose of being the first SEAL. The evolution of man, I think, is slower than the cultural evolution. And I think there will be unintentional consequences when it’s lifted across the board.” [Newsmax, 1/23/13]

### **Zinke: Said Military Could Be Cut 15%**

On his internet radio program, Trust, Leadership and American Exceptionalism with Commander Z, Zinke said that the military could be cut by 15 percent. Zinke said, “I think the military can be cut, you know, 15 percent, and we would not lose capability and we would not lose the educational benefits to our troops.” [Radioactive Broadcasting, accessed [5/19/14](#)]

## NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES

- ✓ He has been a vocal critic of the President's "war on coal", citing the Crow Nation's economic troubles, and need to resort to "extensive furloughs." Zinke's Indian Coal Production Tax Credit passed the House.
- ✓ He voted to amend the National Labor Relations Act to exempt tribes & tribally-owned businesses.
- ✓ Zinke declared he would not "stand idly by as the Gateway Pacific Terminal becomes the next Keystone."
- ✓ He voted to reduce regulations on development on Indian lands to expedite energy development.
- ✓ He sponsored legislation to exempt tribes and tribal employers from Obamacare's employer mandate. He would also repeal the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.
- ✓ ...BUT an official contended that Zinke made disparaging remarks about Indians. In 2014, he said that "nowhere is more apparent," the dependence on government, than "Indian reservations."
- ✓ He supported a plan to slash food stamp benefits.
- ✓ He supported the government shutdown that hurt Montana tribes, and opposed replacing the devastating sequester cuts that cut funding for schools and Indian health services.
- ✓ He even opposed funding for Violence Against Women Programs for Indian women.

### **Zinke Criticized Obama's "War on Coal" for Forcing the Crow National to Resort to "Extensive Furloughs"**

In 2016, Zinke distributed a press release criticizing the Obama Administration for forcing the Crow Nation to announce "extensive furloughs" due to "the Obama Administration's war on coal." He said, "Chicago is a long ways away from Montana; I imagine Mr. Obama didn't make it out west very often before running for President... Although he is in his last year, I believe it would be incredibly helpful for President Obama to meet with the Crow who want to provide clean affordable power, meet with out of work loggers in Lincoln County who want to provide lumber to build homes, and meet with ranchers and farmers who grow our nation's food despite mounting regulations. These are the people who literally feed, power and shelter America, and I think the President should hear their stories." [Zinke House press release via States News Service, 1/29/16]

### **Zinke Indian Coal Production Tax Credit Passed The House**

"Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for and the House passed H.R. 2029, the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act (PATH Act). [...] Regarding the ICPTC, Zinke said: 'Making the ICPTC permanent will level the playing field for future development of coal resources on Tribal land and ensure generations of good-paying jobs for the Crow. We want to create as few economic burdens as possible, especially since tribal lands are subject to greater regulatory hurdles compared to private, state, or federal projects. Making the tax credit permanent will empower tribal governments by promoting economic and social growth. While I wish a permanent extension was included in this package, I am thrilled that Congress has seen

the ICPTC's necessity for coal-producing tribes, such as the Crow Nation." [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Bill To Make The Indian Coal Production Tax Credit (ICPTC) Permanent**

In March 2015, Zinke introduced a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and improve the Indian coal production tax credit. [CQ, Accessed [3/23/15](#); Sponsored 3/19/15, Introduced [3/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Introduced Legislation Making The Indian Coal Production Tax Credit Permanent, Stating It Will, "Ensure Good-Paying Jobs For The Crow People."**

"Congressman Ryan Zinke outlined his new bill in Billings Thursday, joined by Crow Tribal leaders, Yellowstone & Big Horn County officials, and representatives of Cloud Peak Energy. 'I am proud to introduce this important legislation because making the ICPTC permanent will level the playing field for future development of coal resources on Tribal land, and ensure generations of good-paying jobs for the Crow people,' said Rep. Zinke. 'Making this tax credit permanent will empower tribal governments by promoting economic and social growth,' Rep. Zinke said." [KTVQ, [3/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "It's Not A Handout."**

"During a Thursday appearance in Billings with members of the Crow Tribe, Rep. Ryan Zinke said he plans to introduce legislation in coming days to revive the tax breaks that expired in December. Zinke said the tax breaks are intended to make up for the extra bureaucratic hurdles faced by companies that must get federal approval to mine on tribal lands. 'It's not a handout,' said the first-term Republican. 'What it does is level the playing field so Crow coal can be competitive.'" [Missoulian, [3/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Was "Proud" To Introduce Bill To Make ICPTC Permanent Because It Would "Level The Playing Field For Future Development Of Coal Resources On Tribal Land" And Create "Good-Paying Jobs."**

"I am proud to introduce this important legislation because making the ICPTC permanent will level the playing field for future development of coal resources on Tribal land and ensure generations of good-paying jobs for the Crowpeople,' said Rep. Zinke. 'Montana is home to 25 percent of our nation's coal reserves—enough to supply the entire U.S. with affordable electricity for more than 100 years.'" [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "Clean Coal Is The Leading Sources Of Affordable Electricity And Good-Paying Jobs."**

Zinke said: "Rather than allowing President Obama and the EPA to continue waging their war on Montana coal, we should be investing in this technology. Clean coal is one of the leading sources of affordable electricity and good-paying jobs for Montana families." [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Tribal Lands Are "Subject To Greater Regulatory Hurdles" When It Came To Coal Production**

"Zinke continued: 'We want to create as few economic burdens as possible, especially since tribal lands are subject to greater regulatory hurdles compared to private, state, or federal projects. Making the tax credit permanent will empower tribal governments by promoting economic and social growth. Coal-producing tribes, such as the Crow Nation, will have a greater capacity to create jobs and invest in critical projects like infrastructure and education.'" [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Proposed A Permanent Tax Break For Coal Mined On Indian Reservations, Planned To Announce It In Billings With Representatives Of The Crow Tribe**

"Montana U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke is proposing to make permanent a tax break for coal mined from American Indian Reservations. Zinke was scheduled to announce his proposal Thursday in Billings during an appearance with representatives of the Crow Tribe and the coal industry. According to Internal Revenue Service documents the tax break was worth \$2.32 for every ton of coal mined in 2014." [AP, [3/12/15](#)]

## Zinke Touted Passage of Energy Bill to Help Clear the Way to Allow the Crow a Port for Coal



Ryan Zinke

December 3, 2015 · 🌐

Today the House passed a comprehensive energy infrastructure bill which included my amendment to require the Army Corps of Engineers to complete an environmental impact study on a port where the Crow tribe can export their coal. This is project would be a huge economic boon for the Crow who suffer unemployment rates as high as 50%, and I'm proud to fight alongside Chairman Old Coyote for the future of the project.



### House vote stops coastal Indians from blocking port for Montana coal

Plans for a controversial port in Puget Sound for Montana coal will advance under...

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[Facebook, Ryan Zinke, 12/03/15]

## Zinke Voted To Amend NLRA To Exempt Tribes & Tribally-Owned Businesses from Federal Labor Laws

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would amend the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to exempt tribes and tribally-owned businesses on Indian lands from federal labor laws by providing that any enterprise or institution owned or operated by an Indian tribe and located on its lands is not considered an employer.” The bill passed by a 249-177 vote. [CQ, [11/17/15](#); H.R. 511, Vote 633, [11/17/15](#)]

## Zinke Said Tribes Supported Amending National Labor Relations Act

“Today, Congress passed the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015 (249-177 with 24 Democrats joining a majority of Republicans), which rolls back federal agency intervention in tribal affairs in order to restore greater sovereignty to tribes. Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke cosponsored and voted for the measure. The legislation will amend the National Labor Relations Act to affirm that the law does not apply to any business owned and operated by an Indian tribe and located on tribal land, restoring to tribal leaders control over employee-employer relations. ‘This is about sovereignty, opportunity and respect,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘The federal government already saddles our tribes with burdensome regulations that hamper their ability to achieve the same goals of prosperity and success that we all aspire to. Considering the fact that the NLRB notoriously overreaches in the private sector, imagine what damage they would do to Montana’s tribes. H.R.511 is supported by tribes all across the nation. This bill affirms my strong support for their sovereignty.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [11/17/15](#)]

## **Zinke Voted To Prohibit Gaming Activities On Certain Indian Lands In AZ Until Expiration Gaming Compacts**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “A bill to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts.” The bill was rejected by 263-146 (two-thirds vote required). [CQ, [11/16/15](#), H.R.308, Vote 626, [11/16/15](#)]

## **The Bill Was Designed To Block Construction Of A Controversial Casino In A Phoenix Suburb**

“The House failed to pass a contentious and heavily lobbied bill Monday that would block construction of a controversial casino in a Phoenix suburb. The local battle among a handful of tribes has featured some of the highest-paying lobbying contracts on K Street in recent years, as the state’s tribes fight over a facility that could bring in hundreds of millions of dollars. House GOP leaders brought the bill to the floor under a fast-track process typically reserved for noncontroversial measures. The bill narrowly fell short in securing the necessary two-thirds supermajority to move forward under the procedure in the 263-146 vote. The bill is meant to settle an ongoing dispute that has fired up Arizonans amid debates over promises, Tohono O’odham, an American Indian tribe allegedly made and the principles behind Indian casinos. It would prohibit the Tohono O’odham tribe from proceeding with the ongoing project to build a casino on a piece of land it owns just outside Glendale, Ariz.” [The Hill, Floor Action, [11/16/15](#)]

## **Zinke Spoke At The 2015 Indian Gaming Summer Legislative Summit.**

[National Indian Gaming Association, Accessed [7/21/15](#)]

## **Zinke Said He Would Not “Stand Idly By As The Gateway Pacific Terminal Becomes The Next Keystone.”**

“Tribal leaders from across Washington state say that their treaty rights require rejection of a giant coal export terminal, proposed for Cherry Point north of Bellingham and have taken their case to the annual White House Tribal Nations Conference. [...] ‘I will not stand idly by as the Gateway Pacific Terminal becomes the next Kystone XL Pipeline,’ U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said in a recent statement. He described Gateway Pacific as a ‘must build project.’ [Hearst Seattle Media, [11/5/15](#)]

## **Zinke Amendment To Ensure The Army Corps Of Engineers Finishes A National Environmental Policy Act Review Of The Gateway Pacific Coal Export Terminal In Washington State Was Blocked In Committee**

“The House Rules Committee late last night rejected efforts to add a repeal of the crude oil export ban to the chamber’s multiyear highway bill, closing off what many lawmakers thought was a promising legislative avenue for ending the decades-old restriction. [...] The committee blocked floor consideration of an amendment by Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) to make sure the Army Corps of Engineers finishes a National Environmental Policy Act review of the Gateway Pacific coal export terminal in Washington state. Zinke and other pro-coal lawmakers are concerned about a Lummi Nation demand for the Army Corps to halt the permitting process surrounding the proposal. They claim it would violate treaty-protected fishing rights. Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), a top defender of Native American rights, asked Zinke, ‘If treaty rights have been violated, why would you go through all the rest?’ Zinke, pointing to the Crow Nation’s support of coal exports from his state, said the amendment ‘simply has to do with let’s follow the process.’ Zinke and other lawmakers have introduced versions of the amendment to other bills and will likely do so again.” [E&E Publishing, [11/4/15](#)]

## **Rep Tom Cole Asked Zinke “If Treaty Rights Have Been Violated, Why Would You Go Through All The Rest?”**

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lawmakers are concerned about a Lummi Nation demand for the Army Corps to halt the permitting process surrounding the proposal. They claim it would violate treaty-protected fishing rights. Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), a top defender of Native American rights, asked Zinke, ‘If treaty rights have been violated, why would you go through all the rest?’ Zinke, pointing to the Crow Nation’s support of coal exports from his state, said the amendment ‘simply has to do with let’s follow the process.’ Zinke and other lawmakers have introduced versions of the amendment to other bills and will likely do so again.” [E&E Publishing, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said His Amendment “Simply Has To Do With Let’s Follow The Process” Of The Review**

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### **Zinke Amendment To Block The US Army Corp Of Engineers (USACE) From Preemptively Stopping The Gateway Pacific Terminal Passed The House**

“Today, the House passed H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act, which modernizes our energy infrastructure, protects the electrical grid, streamlines energy exports, and provides regulatory relief for manufacturers and small businesses. The measure passed 249-174 with bipartisan support. Included in the comprehensive energy bill is Rep. Ryan Zinke’s H.R. 2358, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act, which is listed as Section 1112, ‘Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance on Federal lands containing electric transmission and distribution facilities.’ The Congressman also lead and passed an amendment to block the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) from preemptively stopping the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT), which the Crow tribe is a part owner of. ‘As a whole, this bill addresses a key issue facing Montana: improving our energy infrastructure,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘In order for us to remain globally competitive, we need innovative approaches to enhance our energy development potential. H.R.8 does exactly that. I am proud to have my bill, H.R.2358, included within the package. Currently, if a tree falls on a power line that is on federal land, utility crews must go through regulatory back flips just to remove it. It should not take an act of Congress to remove a tree. Our co-ops, who service 40 percent of Montana, deserve far better, as do all Americans who need reliable electric service to keep their lights on.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Crow Nation Tribal Sovereignty Was Being Violated By The US Army Corp Of Engineers Because They Were A Part Owner In The Gateway Pacific Terminal**

“Today, the House passed H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act, which modernizes our energy infrastructure, protects the electrical grid, streamlines energy exports, and provides regulatory relief for manufacturers and small businesses. The measure passed 249-174 with bipartisan support. [...] ‘I also appreciate the inclusion of the McKinley/Zinke amendment to H.R.8. This amendment is not about picking sides, it is about fairness,’ Zinke said. ‘The USACE should play by the rules they have established, which stakeholders and tribes spend millions of dollars to comply with. An Environmental Impact Study (EIS) will determine any tribal or environmental impacts, and that is what we want: for the process to continue as it always has. Not following this established process will set a dangerous precedent that will impact future projects across the country.’ [...]Zinke continued, ‘I firmly believe in tribal sovereignty. I want for treaty rights to be bolstered and tribes to be thoroughly consulted. Unfortunately, that is not happening right now. The

Crow Nation of Montana has been consistently ignored by the USACE despite the fact that this project directly impacts their treaty interests. This is unacceptable. They deserve the opportunity to sit at the table to discuss this potential project.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/3/15](#)]

**Zinke: “We Put A Process In Place Where The [Environmental Impact Statement] Goes Through. If The Army Corps Were To Have Given Judgment Before The EIS, It Would Have Been Unprecedented And Unfair.”**

“Plans for a controversial port in Puget Sound for Montana coal will advance under a House rider preventing coastal Indians from stopping the project. House lawmakers led by Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., voted to keep the permitting process going for the Gateway Pacific Terminal near Bellingham, Washington. The Lummi Nation, which has fishing waters next to Cheery Point, had asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to abandon its review of the port proposal. The Lummi argued that its treaty rights would be violated by the terminal. [...] Zinke said as a result of the House action, both tribes’ concerns will be heard as the environmental review for Gateway Pacific Terminal continues. The biggest piece of that review is an environmental impact statement expected in March 2016. Environmental impact statements are required reports for major projects. The reports advise the public and government agencies about a project’s potential negative consequences and presents alternatives for avoiding or reducing those consequences. ’This is not about the Lummi tribe versus the Crow. This is about fairness,’ Zinke said. ‘We put a process in place where the EIS goes through. If the Army Corps were to have given judgment before the EIS, it would have been unprecedented and unfair.’ Lummi Nation representatives were in Washington, D.C., this week attempting to turn back Zinke’s rider. In an open letter published in The Hill, Tim Ballew, chairman of the Lummi Business Council, said Zinke and U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., were benefiting corporate coal interests by undermining Lummi treaty rights. Daines, who had worked earlier to keep permitting for the Gateway Pacific Terminal on track, credited Zinke for the House vote.” [Billings Gazette, [12/3/15](#)]

**Billings Gazette: “Tim Ballew, Chairman Of The Lummi Business Council, Said Zinke And U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., Were Benefiting Corporate Coal Interests By Undermining Lummi Treaty Rights.”**

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**Zinke Asked The U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers To Ignore Indian Tribe Requests To End Environmental Review Of Gateway Pacific Terminal At Cherry Point In Bellingham, Wash**

“With Montana coal exports in jeopardy, the state’s Republican congressmen are asking the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ignore Indian tribe requests to end environmental review of a Washington coal port. U.S. Sen.

Steve Daines and Rep. Ryan Zinke petitioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to not abandon the environmental review of the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal at Cherry Point in Bellingham, Wash. The Lummi Tribe, which has fishing grounds next to Cherry Point, asked the Army Corps in January to the abandon review of the port proposal. The Lummi argue its treaty fishing rights would be violated by the port. [...] Both congressmen told The Gazette that they are only advocating for the Army Corps' environmental review of Cherry Point to continue, whatever the eventual outcome. The Lummi's concerns should be part of that review process. Zinke said by not completing an environmental impact statement on Cherry Point, the Corps would circumvent long-standing federal rules for reviewing major projects. 'It's unprecedented. There's a process and the environmental impact statement is the appropriate process,' Zinke said. 'I think in this case, they certainly caved into the interest of the Lummis Tribe.' [Billings Gazette, [7/29/15](#)]

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**Zinke Said Not Completing An Environmental Impact Statement At Cherry Point Would Be "Unprecedented."**

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**Zinke Said The U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers "Caved Into The Interest Of The Lummis Tribe."**

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### **Zinke Said The Gateway Pacific Terminal Would Create Jobs For The Crow Nation And Create "Financial Stability" For The Crow People**

"Washington state's newest proponents of coal exports aren't actually in the state at all. Montana economic leaders are stepping up pressure for coal exports through Washington state, pushing back against strong opposition among Seattle environmentalists and politicians, and among many Native American tribal leaders. In fact, recent support for the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal north of Bellingham is even pitting one tribe against another. Montana's Crow Tribe of Indians have backed the project, and northwest Washington's Lummi Nation has intensely opposed it. [...] The fight is attracting out-of-state political leaders, and on Monday, Montana Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke visited Seattle to make a case for the terminal. 'It's important to Montana, it's important to Washington, it's also important to our nation,' Zinke said. He linked the interests of the Crows with those of other Montana residents. Coal, he said, is a job creator for the Crow tribe. 'The Indian nations, they want to be able to determine the destiny of their people to a degree that it is jobs and financial stability,' Zinke said." [Puget Sound Business Journal, [8/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Penned Letter To WA Gov. Inslee Highlighting Benefits Of Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) And The Implications Of Stalling The Project."**

In an April 2015 letter to Washington Governor Jay Inslee, Zinke wrote, "I write to ask for your attention to a matter of significant importance to both our states. As you are surely aware, Montana and the people of the Crow Nation are eagerly awaiting the approval of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) at Cherry Point, based in Whatcom County, Washington. Although project organizers submitted their application more than two years ago, a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has yet to be released. Therefore, I wanted to highlight the numerous economic benefits this project will have, as well as discuss the implications of stalling its progress." [Hungry Horse News, Zinke Letter, [4/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Gateway Pacific Terminal Would Create "Blue Collar Jobs For Montana And Washington" And Increase Tax Revenues At The State And Local Level**

In an April 2015 letter to Washington Governor Jay Inslee, Zinke wrote, "With the potential to tap Pacific Rim markets worth over \$1.5 trillion, the GPT will create good-paying, blue collar jobs for Montana and Washington and provide much needed tax revenue to all levels of state and local government. In turn, critical education and infrastructure projects will gain necessary funding." [Hungry Horse News, Zinke Letter, [4/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed "In Washington State Alone, More Than 4,400 Jobs Will Be Created" And Said GPT Would Create Jobs For The Crow Nation "Whose Unemployment Rate Often Tops 50 Percent."**

In an April 2015 letter to Washington Governor Jay Inslee, Zinke wrote, "In Washington State alone, more than 4,400 jobs will be created if the project is approved. With the January 2015 unemployment rate hovering above 7 percent in Bellingham, those are welcome jobs. For Montana, building the GPT also means more employment opportunities, particularly for the Crow Nation, whose unemployment rate often tops 50 percent." [Hungry Horse News, Zinke Letter, [4/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed Crow Nation "Sits On An Estimated 9 Billion Tons Of Coal" But "Have Not Been Able To Move Coal To The Market And Actualize On Their Energy Potential."**

In an April 2015 letter to Washington Governor Jay Inslee, Zinke wrote, "The Crow Nation has been mining coal on its reservation lands for over 40 years. Montana has more than 30 percent of the nation's recoverable coal reserves — enough to power America for 250 years — and the tribe currently sits on an estimated 9 billion tons of coal. However, due to transportation challenges, they have not been able to move coal to the market and actualize on their energy potential. Fully tapping into one of the largest coal reserves in the nation would

provide vital opportunities for economic growth for the Crow people and the people of Washington State.” [Hungry Horse News, Zinke Letter, [4/6/15](#)]

**Zinke Urged Washington Governor To “Assist With The Completion Of The Draft And Permitting Process [...] Support The Crow’s Involvement In Discussions” And To “Not Let The GPT Infrastructure Project Become The Next Keystone XL Pipeline.”**

In an April 2015 letter to Washington Governor Jay Inslee, Zinke wrote, “Our states have a long history of working together, and this project will be a prosperous opportunity for Washington and Montana to lead America into an energy independent future. As the EIS process continues, I respectfully ask that you assist with the completion of the draft and permitting process for the terminal. I also request you support the Crow’s involvement in discussions about the fate of the GPT with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Washington-based tribes. I cannot stress enough how access to this terminal will revitalize the Crow Nation and empower thousands of its members who remain unemployed. I urge you, governor, please do not let the GPT infrastructure project become the next Keystone XL pipeline.” [Hungry Horse News, Zinke Letter, [4/6/15](#)]

**Zinke Claimed Cost Of Gateway Pacific Terminal To Government Would Be “Nominal,” Claimed “Montana Would Be Able To Increase Exports Of Agriculture, Timber And Other Dry, Bulk-Goods.”**

In an op-ed Zinke said, “With more than \$770 million in private financing, the cost to the government would be nominal; the benefits to our entire economy however, would be abundant. In addition to exporting coal, Montana would be able to increase exports of agriculture, timber and other dry, bulk-goods. That is why the project is supported by the U.S. Grains Council, the Montana Chamber of Commerce, the Montana Farm Bureau, Washington Farm Bureau, Treasure State Resource and Industry Association, and labor organizations like the Montana Brotherhood of Boilermakers, the AFL-CIO and local chapters of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.” [Montana Standard, Rep. Ryan Zinke, [4/9/15](#)]

**GFT: “Zinke Said He Was Happy To Work With His Colleagues To Increase The Exports Of Pulse Crops To Indian Markets.”**

“Montana’s congressional delegation on Tuesday said that India has reversed its regulatory restrictions on pulse crop stock limits – clearing the way for exports from Montana to that country to resume. A joint news statement from GOP Sen. Steve Daines, Democrat Jon Tester and Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke states that India’s policy reversal follows a letter last week from the Treasure State delegation urging issues be resolved. [...] Zinke said he was happy to work with his colleagues to increase the exports of pulse crops to Indian markets. ‘Agriculture is our biggest industry, and we are the largest pulse producer in the nation,’ he said. ‘I’m proud to fight for fair trade practices that grow our industry and the thousands of jobs it supports.’ [Great Falls Tribune, [11/3/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I’m Proud To Fight For Fair Trade Practices That Grow Our Industry And The Thousands Of Jobs It Supports.”**

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**Zinke Said He Was Trying To Get To All 8 Montana Tribes**

“Indian Country Today Media Network caught up with freshman Congressman Ryan Zinke (R)-Montana, who is just off a barnstorming tour of the historic Montana Hi-Line region, including meeting with Native American tribal representatives during a state-wide RV trip. Rep. Zinke, who was mentioned as a possible successor to

outgoing Speaker of the House John Boehner, is a former SEAL Team commander. Thank you for taking time from your recent travels to talk to ICTMN. You are welcome. Montana is a big state – last week we drove 2,000 miles, all within the state. That’s about as far as if you drove from Caribou, Maine, to Key West, Florida. We have counties bigger than some states. And we also have seven sovereign tribes, eight if you count the Little Shell, which I do. It’s important to me to make sure I’m getting around and talking to everyone.” [Indian Country Today Media Network, [10/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Highlighted The Memorial Ceremony For Assiniboine Sioux Tribal Member And Navy SEAL, Michael Bell**

“What one memory sticks out from the past busy week that you have had? [Zinke:] Definitely the memorial ceremony for Michael Bell, a fallen Navy SEAL from the Assiniboine Sioux tribe. Michael was tragically murdered in 2006 while he was at home between deployments. This really struck me because I was one of his instructors early in his career. Michael was a warrior’s warrior – he made me proud as his commander and as a Montanan. I visited Wolf Point to see Michael’s family and tribal leaders and to honor Michael’s life and sacrifice. They honored me with a traditional name, Seal Leader, performed a name song, and presented me with beautiful hand-made gifts in Michael’s honor. I left knowing I had family in Wolf Point. It was among the greatest honors of my life.” [Indian Country Today Media Network, [10/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Visited “With Blackfeet Chairman Harry Barnes, Secretary Tyson Running Wolf, As Well As Other Tribe Members.”**

“You met with members of the Blackfeet Tribe and discussed border issues, in addition to the exercise of tribal sovereignty. [Zinke:] In Browning I visited with Blackfeet Chairman Harry Barnes, Secretary Tyson Running Wolf, as well as other tribe members. They told me that they are seeking to expand the border access to Canada and the other Blackfoot Confederacy (Niitsitapi). Right now the border ports of entry close after sundown and do not reopen until the morning. It seems a little ironic that Blackfeet Nation trackers help to secure the southern border via the special Shadow Wolves unit of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, but when they get back home to Montana, they are restricted in the access to their cultural heritage.” [Indian Country Today Media Network, [10/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Blackfeet Tribe Sought “To Expand The Border Access To Canada And The Other Blackfoot Confederacy.”**

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### **Zinke: “Tribal Sovereignty And Respect Is An Important Part In Federal Recognition.”**

“You met with members of the Blackfeet Tribe and discussed border issues, in addition to the exercise of tribal sovereignty. [...] [Zinke:] Tribal sovereignty and respect is an important part in federal recognition. Tribal government must be seen as a relationship of equals. Sovereignty means something. The Blackfeet Tribe has earned its status as a warrior nation. Many military veterans come from their people who have defended the United States. That status is very clear to me as a former unit commander. It cannot be overlooked.” [Indian Country Today Media Network, [10/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Counted Little Shell As A Sovereign Montana Tribe**

“Indian Country Today Media Network caught up with freshman Congressman Ryan Zinke (R)-Montana, who is just off a barnstorming tour of the historic Montana Hi-Line region, including meeting with Native American

tribal representatives during a state-wide RV trip. Rep. Zinke, who was mentioned as a possible successor to outgoing Speaker of the House John Boehner, is a former SEAL Team commander. Thank you for taking time from your recent travels to talk to ICTMN. You are welcome. Montana is a big state – last week we drove 2,000 miles, all within the state. That’s about as far as if you drove from Caribou, Maine, to Key West, Florida. We have counties bigger than some states. And we also have seven sovereign tribes, eight if you count the Little Shell, which I do. It’s important to me to make sure I’m getting around and talking to everyone.” [Indian Country Today Media Network, [10/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Little Shell Tribe Waited “Far Too Long” To Be Recognized By The Federal Government**

“Today, led by the efforts of Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke, the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs held the first hearing on federal recognition of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana in the last six years. Introduced in January of this year, federal recognition of the tribe was Rep. Zinke’s first piece of legislation in the House. The State of Montana recognized the Little Shell Tribe in 2000; however they have been seeking federal recognition for more than 100 years. ‘The Little Shell Tribe has been waiting for far too long for Washington to realize what the people of Montana have known all along,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘For the people of the Little Shell, federal recognition means more than just a government status – it means sovereignty, greater opportunity and rights to the land the tribe has built their families and communities on for generations. Federal recognition of the Little Shell was my first legislation in the House, and the entire Montana Congressional delegation is dedicated to this effort. I have been working with Senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester to advance this important legislation since January. Today I’m happy to report we are one step closer to finally being able to deliver economic empowerment and federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [9/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called On House Natural Resource Committee To Take Up Legislation To Advance Little Shell Recognition**

According to a press release, “Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke called on the House Natural Resources Committee and Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaskan Affairs to take up legislation to extend federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Cree [...] Zinke said, ‘The people of the Little Shell Tribe have waited long enough for federal recognition,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘Montana’s delegation is united behind the Little Shell. I am encouraged by the movement in the Senate, and I urge Chairmen Rob Bishop and Don Young to advance this important legislation.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Federal Government Should Stop “Treating Indians Like Children”**

“A group of around a couple dozen people gathered at the Junction Drive Inn Monday morning, Oct. 12, to have coffee with Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke, the first stop on his listening tour of Montana towns. Blackfeet Chairman Harry Barnes and Secretary Tyson Running Wolf, as well as Homeland Security Director Robert DesRosier represented the Blackfeet Tribe, and Montana Senator Lea Whitford was on hand. Congressman Zinke’s theme was that the federal government should let Tribes make their own decisions and stop ‘treating Indians like children.” [Golden Triangle News, [10/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “The Federal Government Needs To Treat Tribes As Equals, And It’s Clear That’s Not The Case.”**

“A group of around a couple dozen people gathered at the Junction Drive Inn Monday morning, Oct. 12, to have coffee with Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke, the first stop on his listening tour of Montana towns. [...] Finally, Zinke said it’s about respect. ‘The federal government needs to treat Tribes as equals, and it’s clear that’s not the case,’ Zinke said. ‘Sovereignty should mean something. I’ve always thought of the Blackfeet as a warrior nation, and as a former SEAL commander I respect the large number of veterans here.” [Golden Triangle News, [10/14/15](#)]

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**Zinke Was Presented With A Traditional Assinibione Sioux Of Fort Peck Name**

“A ceremony was held Tuesday in Wolf Point to honor Navy SEAL Michael Bell, a member of the Assinibione Sioux of Fort Peck who was murdered in 2006. U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and other Navy and Tribal officials attended the ceremony and presented Bell’s family with a flag and pin, according to a press release from Zinke’s office. Zinke, also a former SEAL, helped see Bell through training, the press release states. Earlier this year, Zinke presented the tribe with a SEAL flag in Bell’s honor. On Tuesday, Bell’s father presented Zinke with a traditional name, Great Seal Leader, a name song, and a handmade star quilt. The quilt will hang in Zinke’s office in Washington D.C. ‘This was one of the greatest honors of my life,’ Zinke said in a statement. ‘Michael Bell was a warrior’s warrior. He makes me proud as a Montanan and a Commander.’ [KPAX, [10/13/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Reduce Regs. on Development of Indian Lands To Expedite The Development Of Energy**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would reduce federal regulations on the development of Indian lands to expedite the development of energy. As amended, the bill would allow state, tribe, and local governments in an affected area to continue to comment on an environmental impact statement. Further, the bill would create a demonstration project with Indian tribes to perform administrative, management, and other functions of programs of the Tribal Forest Protection Act.” The bill passed by a 254-173 vote. [CQ, [10/8/15](#); H.R. 538, Vote 544, [10/8/15](#)]

**Zinke Spoke On The Senate Floor In Support Of The Native American Energy Act**

“Today I spoke on the floor in support of HR 538, the Native American Energy Act which would increase the ability for native tribes to control their own land and resources. The federal government has infringed on the sovereignty of our tribes to develop their own natural resources. What is sovereignty? Sovereignty is not going through a labyrinth of rules that are far greater than other federal lands or state lands. It’s not right. It’s not right for the Crow People. It’s not right for every Indian Nation across this land. The government has infringed and the GAO report examines it and states as much. The Crow Tribe, a proud tribe within Montana, they want to be self-sufficient. They want to make sure they have a prosperous economy and do right by their people. Chairman, Old Coyote, has said a war on coal is a war on the Crow People. And he is right.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, 10/8/15; YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [10/8/15](#)] (VIDEO)

**Zinke: “Montana’s Sovereign Tribes Have The Right To Develop And Manage Resources On Their Own Land.”**

“Last week the U.S. House passed with a bipartisan vote H.R.538: the Native American Energy Act. [...] The federal government is actively hindering energy development on tribal lands, and that’s according to the federal government,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘Montana’s sovereign tribes have the right to develop and manage resources on their own land. What tribes are seeking for is what we are all asking for: economic opportunity, the ability to protect the environment, and create a better and more stable life for future generations. The federal government does not have the right to take away the sovereignty of these nations.’ [PitchEngine, [10/12/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted For The Native American Energy Act Because The “Federal Government, Has Infringed On The Sovereignty Of Our Tribes To Develop Their Own Natural Resources.”**

“H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act, was just passed this month, with Republican majority support. Without going into minute detail on the arguments against its passage, news coverage of the vote (254-173) centers on a streamlining of the licensing process of energy projects on tribally-controlled lands, and bypassing regulatory challenges. Why did you vote for the Act? [Zinke:] This bill represents a significant step for tribes across the country, especially in my state of Montana. I have only been in this seat for a short time and I can tell you that the government, the federal government, has infringed on the sovereignty of our tribes to develop their own natural resources. What is sovereignty? Sovereignty is not going through a labyrinth of rules that are far greater than other federal lands or state lands. It’s not right. It’s not right for the Crow People who want to develop their coal. It’s not right for every Indian Nation across this land.” [Indian Country Today Media Network, [10/23/15](#)]

**Zinke: “The Crow Tribe, A Proud Tribe Within Montana, Wants To Be Self-Sufficient.”**

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**Zinke: “There Is No Better Job On The Crow Reservation Than A Coal Job.”**

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**Voted Against Protecting Native American Sacred Lands**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a motion “that would ensure that nothing in the bill would contravene the authority of the president to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of any site identified as sacred by virtue of established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, and Indian religion.” The motion failed 184-239. [HR 538, [Vote #543](#); CQ Floor Votes, [10/08/15](#)]

### **Republicans Argued That The Bill Would Allow Native Americans To Develop Reservations Easier**

“Young says the bill would cut red tape to help Native people develop their own resources. On the House floor before the vote, the Alaska Republican argued the bill would also deter frivolous lawsuits, in part by shortening the timeline for legal challenges. ‘The judicial review provision is crucial for Alaska natives, whose ability to develop their own settlement lands has been abused by special interest groups filing lawsuits,’ he said.” [Alaska Public Radio Network, [10/09/15](#)]

### **The White House Issued A Veto Threat And Democrats Argued That The Bill Would Weaken A “Bedrock” Conservation Law**

“The White House issued a veto threat this week. In a memo, President Obama’s advisors said the bill would undermine public oversight and set unrealistic deadlines...conservation law, the National Environmental Policy Act. And, Grijalva says, it could apply on non-Indian lands, too. ‘If an energy company is developing natural resources anywhere in the United States and they get a tribal partner they could fall under this provision,’ he said. ‘This could incentivize energy companies to partner with tribes simply for the benefit of skirting NEPA and profiting from restricted judicial review.’” [Alaska Public Radio Network, [10/09/15](#)]

### **Zinke Sp. Legislation That Would Exempt Tribes And Tribal Employers From Obamacare’s Employer Mandate**

“Senator Steve Daines (R-MT) and Representative Ryan Zinke (R-MT) today announced the introduction of legislation to protect Native American tribes from Obamacare’s costly employer mandate. The Tribal Employment and Jobs Protection Act, which was introduced today in the Senate and House, will exempt tribes and tribal employers from Obamacare’s employer mandate. The bills prevent massive fines that tribal employers would incur under Obamacare’s employer mandate. [...] ‘One of the worst consequences of ObamaCare is the fact that it does great harm to the folks who can least afford it,’ said Zinke. ‘Because ObamaCare was poorly written and passed before anyone had a chance to even read it, tribal government and businesses are facing steep fines that threaten jobs and the economic livelihood of thousands of families. Unemployment rates on reservations already reach as high as 50 percent due to failed policies like the war on coal; further burdens on the tribes with high fines and increased bureaucracy only adds insult to injury.’” [Office of Sen. Steve Daines, Press Release, [7/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Blackfeet And Salish-Kootenai Water Compacts Would Not Be Resolved During The Obama Presidency**

“Ryan Zinke forecast ‘tough waters’ for the nation’s next year and a half at a town hall talk in Bigfork Tuesday night. [...] Zinke fielded questions and discussion for the last hour, responding to international worries and local issues. Several people asked about tribal water compacts around the state. The congressman responded by saying the process for both the Blackfeet and Salish-Kootenai compacts was long and would not be resolved during this presidency.” [Flathead News Group, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Moving The Blackfeet Water Compact Through The Senate And House**

“Another critical environmental project on the reservation is the finalization of the Blackfeet Water Compact. Negotiated for 20 years and passed by the Montana legislature in 2009, the water rights agreement has languished in Congress ever since. The agreement would formalize the tribe’s water rights and unleash funding needed for critical improvement projects on the reservation. In April, Montana Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines introduced legislation to finalize the water compact, but sources close to the tribe expect it will be another year before there’s a vote. Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke also came out in support of moving the legislation through the Senate and House. Chairman Barnes said working with Montana’s Washington, D.C. delegation would be critical to getting the compact passed.” [Flathead Beacon, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke Signed Letter That Urged Obama Administration To Implement Procedural Changes Meant To Expedite A Final Congressional Vote On The Pending Blackfeet Water Compact**

“Freshman Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke is urging the Obama administration to implement procedural changes meant to expedite a final congressional vote on the pending Blackfeet Water Compact. In a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Zinke called on the agencies to work together to advance the compact.” [Great Falls Tribune, [4/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Blackfeet Tribe “Has Waited Long Enough,” Claimed Tribe Spent “25 Years Of Negotiating With Government Bureaucracies And Politicians.”**

Zinke said, “After 25 years of negotiating with government bureaucracies and politicians, the Blackfeet deserve a timely and definitive ruling on their agreement. Tribes, states and local citizens are left in a perpetual state of uncertainty. The tribe has waited long enough. I strongly urge both departments to swiftly work with the Blackfeet Tribe to thoroughly examine their proposal, determine federal costs and negotiate a final settlement.” [Great Falls Tribune, [4/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called New Procedural Changes “Practical” And Supported Approach “As A Means To Expedite The Process, Particularly For The Blackfeet Tribe’s Water Compact.”**

“In his letter, Zinke called the new rules ‘practical,’ adding, ‘I strongly support this approach as a means to expedite the process, particularly for the Blackfeet Tribe’s Water Compact. Our Tribes and Montanans deserve a government that proactively works towards a solution rather than continuing the status quo.’ [Great Falls Tribune, [4/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Once A Final Deal Is Reached And Chairman Bishop Has Introduced The Legislation, I Will Fight To See Its Passage In Congress.”**

Zinke said, “The Committee has laid out reasonable expectations to propel this process forward, and I encourage the administration to work expeditiously to reach a resolution,” Zinke said. ‘Once a final deal is reached and Chairman Bishop has introduced the legislation, I will fight to see its passage in Congress.’ [Great Falls Tribune, [4/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. A Bill To Establish The American Indian Trust Review Commission**

In June 2015, Zinke cosponsored “A bill to establish the American Indian Trust Review Commission, and for other purposes.” [CQ, Accessed [6/15/15](#); H.R. 2760, Co-sponsored 6/12/15, Introduced [6/12/15](#); Office of Rep. Paul Gosar, Press Release, [6/22/15](#)]

### **Rep Gosar: “Provide A Blueprint For Better Administration Of The Trust Relationship With Federally Recognized Tribes”**

“Today, U.S. Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S. (AZ-04) released the following statement after introducing the bipartisan American Indian Trust Responsibility Review Act of 2015 with the support of 17 cosponsors: [...] ‘The comprehensive review established by my bipartisan legislation will allow Congress to exercise oversight over the Executive Branch and provide a blueprint for better administration of the trust relationship with federally recognized tribes as well as allow for the pursuit of policies that allow tribes maximum self-determination.’ [Office of Rep. Paul Gosar, Press Release, [6/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Sp. A Bill To Include Segments Of East Rosebud Creek In The Wild And Scenic Rivers System**

In June 2015, Zinke sponsored “a bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.” [CQ, Accessed [6/15/15](#); H.R. 2787, Sponsored 6/15/15; Introduced [6/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I’m Proud To Stand With Montana’s 64,000 Outdoor Industry Workers To Defend Our Heritage And Preserve Our Natural Resources For Generations To Come.”**

“Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced the ‘East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act,’ a bill to protect portions of the East Rosebud Creek that are entirely on public land and run through Carbon County into East Rosebud Lake. The bill would amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include this treasured Montana waterway. ‘In Montana our land, and water is our way of life, and the East Rosebud Creek provides some of the best recreational activities in the country,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘Activities like fishing, hunting, camping, paddling, hiking, rock climbing, and wildlife watching help drive Montana’s multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation industry. The East Rosebud Creek, and the surrounding areas, alone generate millions of dollars annually for the local communities. The beauty and bounty of our land is limitless. I’m proud to stand with Montana’s 64,000 outdoor industry workers to defend our heritage and preserve our natural resources for generations to come.’ [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [6/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Indicated He Supported Cancelling Remaining Oil And Gas Leases In The Badger-Two Medicine Area**

“The solution is long overdue,’ said Jacqueline Pata, Director of the National Congress of American Indians on Wednesday, April 22, in the Blackfeet Tribal Conference Room. ‘It’s about tribal sovereignty, and tribes across the nation are facing similar fights.’ Pata spoke on the occasion of the Blackfeet Tribe declaring a national campaign to cancel the remaining oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine area. [...] Only Senator Jon Tester has officially backed the effort, but Murray said both Senator Steve Daines and Rep. Ryan Zinke have indicated they are in support.” [Golden Triangle News, [4/29/15](#)]

### **...However, Zinke Opposed Canceling Federal Oil And Gas Leases In Badger-Two Medicine Area, Said Government Should “Have To Either Provide Compensation Or Make Other Leases Available With Similar Prospects.”**

“The Blackfeet Nation on Wednesday launched a campaign aimed to block oil and gas drilling on the Badger-Two Medicine area west of its reservation, where federal leases held by energy companies conflict with the cultural and spiritual significance the land holds for the tribes. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said in an interview Tuesday that he wants to work on an agreement that would satisfy both parties. ‘I don’t support arbitrarily canceling leases, because that’s a contract,’ he said. ‘I understand the tribe and the sensitivity of that area, and if the government is going to pull out of the leases, they would have to either provide compensation or make other leases available with similar prospects.’ [Daily Inter Lake, [4/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Was Not “Very Comfortable” With Elements Of The CSKT Water Compact**

[00:15:56] When asked about his opinion on the CSKT Water Compact, Zinke said, “As far as the water compact goes there are some elements that I am not very comfortable with on it. The state is looking at it very closely. I am not very comfortable with a number of provisions on it, and I am hoping the state looks at it closely and makes the right decision.” [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [4/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Cliff Larsen “Should Not Speak Out Of Turn And Speak For Me”**

[00:16:39] ”When asked about Cliff Larsen’s Op-Ed that stated Zinke supported CSKT Water Compact, Zinke said, “Well you know, I know Cliff he should not speak out of turn and speak for me. How’s that? [...] Here’s what I said when the caller before asked me about the compact and there’s some provisions in it that I’m not very comfortable with and I am hoping the state legislature, that’s where its at.” Caller: “Will you be contacting Cliff Larsen and telling him to retract this?” ZINKE: ”Ya I’ll talk to Cliff, One should not say my position unless I state it. But I know Cliff we were state senators together.” [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [4/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported The CSKT Water Compact After His Election, But Before He Had Been Sworn Into His First Term**

“The compact with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes must also gain congressional approval, and there are no guarantees about what may happen to it when the compact moves on to Washington, D.C. [...]

Republican U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke reportedly told the CSKT Tribal Council during a December visit, after his election but before he had been sworn into his first term, that he supported the compact. Char-Koosta News, the tribal newspaper, reported that Zinke told council members he hoped information in the compact would persuade people to think rationally about their stance, rather than feel with emotion, ‘which he feels that most people are doing,’ the newspaper said.” [Missoulian, [4/20/15](#)]

**...However, Zinke Said CSKT Water Compact Was “Contentious” And That “It Affected Off-Reservation Rights, It Affected Senior Water Rights And It Affected The Adjudication Of Water Rights.”**

“Although he emphasized that the complex Salish and Kootenai agreement deserves close scrutiny from Congress, he did not indicate whether he would ultimately throw his support behind it. ‘I’m going to look at it hard. It was so contentious, and I recognize there were some problems with it as it went forward,’ Zinke said in an interview Tuesday. ‘I had concerns because the process became pitting neighbors against neighbors and it affected off-reservation rights, it affected senior water rights and it affected the adjudication of water rights.’” [Daily Inter Lake, [4/22/15](#)]

**Zinke Hoped Congress Would Take Action On CSKT Water Compact Within A Single Two-Year Session**

“Noting Congress’ history of moving slowly on tribal water compacts, Zinke said he hopes the lawmaking body can take action on it within a single two-year session.” [Daily Inter Lake, [4/22/15](#)]

**Zinke Said He Was “Not Very Comfortable With A Number Of Provisions On” The Compact, In An Interview On Missoula Radio Station KGVO April 2015**

“But in an interview on Missoula radio station KGVO earlier this month, before the Legislature had approved it, Zinke said there were some elements of the compact he was not comfortable with. ‘The state is looking at it very, very closely,’ Zinke said in a KGVO interview available on YouTube. ‘I’m not very comfortable with a number of provisions on it and I’m hoping the state looks at it closely and makes the right decision.’” [Missoulian, [4/20/15](#)]

**Zinke Spox: “Congressman Zinke Is Following The Compact Very Closely At The State And Federal Levels But There Is Still More Work And Negotiations To Do Before It Reaches Congress.”**

“Asked this week to clarify Zinke’s position, Heather Swift, Zinke’s communications director, said, ‘Congressman Zinke is following the compact very closely at the state and federal levels but there is still more work and negotiations to do before it reaches Congress. He is hoping for a timely process.’” [Missoulian, [4/20/15](#)]

**...& Missoulian Editorial: “Zinke’s Support (Of CSKT Water Compact) Is Far Less Clear” Than Other Members Of Congress From Montana**

According to the Missoulian Editorial Board, “The debate over the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Water Compact has at long last received the necessary legislative stamp of approval and can proceed to the U.S. Congress. [...] Now Tester appears poised to support the CSKT Water Compact. Fortunately, Daines seems equally eager to move the CSKT and Blackfeet compacts through Congress. However, Zinke’s support is far less clear, and his backing is essential in the House.” [Missoulian, Editorial, [4/21/15](#)]

**Zinke Planned To Meet With Rep. Bishop (R-Utah) To Discuss The CSKT Water Compact, But Did Not Indicate Whether Or Not He Would Support The Compact**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke, who sits on the House Natural Resources Committee, said he plans to meet with Bishop next week to discuss the CSKT water compact. Zinke said he will take the lead during the committee’s deliberations. Zinke emphasized that the complex CSKT agreement deserves close scrutiny by Congress, but he didn’t indicate whether he would ultimately support it.” [Hungry Horse News, [4/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For Reauthorization Of Indian And Native Hawaiian Housing Programs**

On March 23, 2015, Zinke voted in favor of a: “Motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would reauthorize a number of Indian and Native Hawaiian housing programs through fiscal year 2019. The measure would annually authorize: \$650 million for the Indian Housing Block Grant Program, \$12 million for costs to guarantee up to \$976 million in loans for Indian housing, \$13 million for direct housing assistance under the Native Hawaiian Homeownership Act (PL 106-569), and \$386,000 for costs to guarantee a up to \$42 million in loans under that law.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 297-98. [CQ, [3/23/15](#); H.R. 360, Vote 130, [3/23/15](#)]

### **Voted for Reauthorizing Indian & Native American Housing Programs**

In March 2015, Zinke voted for reauthorizing Indian and Native Hawaiian housing programs. “This bill reauthorizes a number of Indian and Native Hawaiian housing programs through FY 2019, including the Indian Housing Block Grant Program (IHBG), which it modifies to provide for multi-year housing plans and to allow tribes to meet program requirements more efficiently. It also establishes a set-aside for housing for Native American veterans within Veterans Affairs (VA) Department housing programs and creates a demonstration program to leverage private investment in affordable Indian housing.” The bill passed 297 to 98. [HR 360, [Vote #130](#), 3/23/15; CQ House Action Reports, [3/20/15](#)]

### **Official Contended Zinke Made Disparaging Remarks About Indians**

According to the *Great Falls Tribune*, “An official contends Ryan Zinke recently made uncomplimentary remarks about Native Americans in Helena. Democrats claim Zinke told Republicans that ‘dependence on the government’ is too high on some reservations and that if ‘you want to feed someone, you need to teach a person how to fish.’ James Steele Jr., president of the Montana Indian Democrats Council, contended Zinke’s comments ‘promote negative stereo-types about Native Americans.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 9/17/14]

### **“Nowhere is More Apparent” the Dependence on Government than on Indian Reservations**

In March 2014, Zinke said that “nowhere is more apparent,” the dependence on government, than “Indian reservations.” Zinke said, “You know, some of the Indian reservations, you know, nowhere is more apparent, the dependence on the [inaudible] government. You know, more than some of the tribes that have 70% unemployment rate. And then so, you know, you go back to, you want to feed someone, you need to, you know, teach a person how to fish rather than give them. I wonder where I heard that before.” [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#)]

### **Zinke Would Repeal the Indian Health Care Improvement Act**

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act was reauthorized as part of the Affordable Health Care Act. Zinke has repeatedly voice support for repealing this legislation that improves the Indian Health Service. [Billings Gazette, [4/25/14](#)]

### **Zinke Supported a Plan to Slash Food Stamp Benefits**

Ryan Zinke supports the Ryan budget that cuts SNAP (Food Stamps) by \$137 billion, eliminating assistance to hundreds of tribal communities that depend on food assistance. [Billings Gazette, [4/25/14](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [4/04/14](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Millions in Increased Funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs & Education & Health Service**

He opposed the budget deal that increased funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Education by \$18 million and the Indian Health service by \$78 million. [Voice of Montana, [12/11/13](#); HR 3547, [Vote # 21](#), 1/15/14; House Appropriations Committee, Interior & Environment Appropriations, [1/13/14](#)]

### **Supported the Government Shutdown That Hurt Montana's Tribes**

The shutdown had a catastrophic impact on Montana's tribes, halting tribal programs including home health care programs for the elderly and disabled, bus services for rural areas and furloughing hundreds of workers. [Billings Gazette, [10/21/13](#); AP, [10/02/13](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Replacing the Devastating Sequester Cuts That Cut Funding for Schools & Indian Health Services**

Zinke opposed the Ryan-Murray budget deal, which would have replaced the sequestration cuts that had a devastating impact on tribal communities, cutting funding for tribal schools and the Indian health services and hospitals. [Voices of Montana, [12/11/13](#); HR 3547, [Vote # 21](#), 1/15/14; House Appropriations Committee, Interior & Environment Appropriations, [1/13/14](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed Funding for Violence Against Women Programs for Indian Women**

In 2014, Zinke opposed \$44 million in funding aimed at addressing the high victimization rates of American Indian women for the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking on tribal lands. [Voices of Montana, [12/11/13](#); NCAI, [1/15/14](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Supported Repealing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act**

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act was reauthorized as part of the Affordable Health Care for America Act. Zinke has repeatedly voiced support for repealing the ACA legislation that improved the Indian Health Service, and he voted for a repeal of ACA in October of 2015. [Billings Gazette, [4/25/14](#); Indian Health Services, accessed [7/8/16](#); Newsmax.com, [1/05/16](#); Indian Country Today: [12/3/15](#); CQ, [10/23/15](#); H.R. 3762, Vote 568, [10/23/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Decried Indian Dependence on Government Services**

At a campaign event in 2014, Zinke said: "There is a legacy in Montana of being independent. You can't be independent if you're beholden to a government. I invite you to drive through Browning. Some of these Indian reservations... nowhere is it more apparent the dependence on government." [YouTube, accessed [5/12/14](#) (43:05)]

### **Congressman Zinke Supported the Government Shutdown, Which Led to Crow Workers Getting Furloughed**

In 2013, Zinke said that he supported the 16-day shutdown of the federal government. The shutdown cut off funding for crucial services on reservations including foster care payments, nutrition programs, and financial assistance for the needy. On the Crow Reservation, the shutdown resulted in the suspension of bus services to remote communities and the furloughing of employees from a major irrigation project. [Billings Gazette, [10/21/13](#); AP, [10/02/13](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Supported Cutting Food Stamp Benefits**

Zinke supported the Ryan budget, which would cut food stamp benefits for millions of low-income families. It would also cut funding for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). [Billings Gazette, [4/25/14](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [4/04/14](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted against Additional Violence against Women Funding**

In 2015, Congressman Zinke voted against a measure that would add \$3 million in funding aimed at addressing the high victimization rates of American Indian women for the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking on tribal lands. [HR 2578, [Vote #296](#), 6/03/15; CQ, [6/03/15](#); Democratic Leader, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Worked With a Known Hate Group to Co-Sponsor an English-Only Bill**

Zinke proudly announced his decision to cosponsor HR 997, the English Language Unity Act, which would [prohibit the federal government](#) from delivering government services in languages other than English. ProEnglish, the group pushing for the bill, has been categorized as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. [ProEnglish YouTube, [3/21/16](#); [HR 997](#); SPLC [Hate Map](#); Intelligent Discontent, [3/24/16](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Favored Compensation for Natural Resource Developers in Badger-Two Medicine**

In 2016, the Bureau of Land Management cancelled an oil and gas lease in the Badger-Two Medicine area near Glacier National Park. The Blackfeet tribe rejoiced at the decision to cancel this lease that had been improperly issued on sacred tribal land. Zinke's response was to suggest that the oil company should be reimbursed. He said: "At the very least, this is a breach of contract and I believe the lease holders should be fairly compensated for their losses." [Flathead Beacon, [3/17/16](#)]

### **Zinke has been an Unreliable Advocate for the CSKT Water Compact**

In December 2014, Zinke told members of the CSKT tribal council that he supported the CSKT water compact. But then in April of 2015, Zinke said he was "not comfortable" with elements of the compact because it had become "contentious." He also disputed a public claim that he supported the compact. [Char-Koosta News, [12/11/14](#); Missoulian, [4/20/15](#); YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [4/3/15](#); Flathead News Group, [4/23/15](#); Daily Inter Lake, [4/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said the Blackfeet Tribe Had Waited Long Enough on the Water Compact, but Then Said They Need to Keep Waiting**

In April of 2015, Zinke said of the Blackfeet water compact that "the Blackfeet deserve a timely and definitive ruling on their agreement. Tribes, states and local citizens are left in a perpetual state of uncertainty. The tribe has waited long enough." However, just three months later, Zinke said that the process was "long" and that the Blackfeet and Salish-Kootenai compacts would not be resolved in the subsequent year and a half, before the end of the Obama presidency. In July 2016, Zinke introduced the water compact in Congress. [Great Falls Tribune, [4/21/15](#); Flathead News Group, [7/8/15](#); US Rep Zinke, [7/6/16](#)]

## NATURAL RESOURCES

- ✓ **COAL & MINING:** Zinke has repeatedly side with coal and mining interests with little regard for environmental or other concerns. He proposed blocking the Department of the Interior from increasing public royalties paid by coal, oil and gas companies for taking profit from public lands.
- ✓ **DISASTER AID:** He voted against increasing funding for inland oil spill programs by more than \$5 million, and against preserving legal recourse to catastrophic event salvage and reforestation projects. He even voted against storm impact prevention and FEMA funding.
- ✓ **FISHING:** He voted to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act. He voted to remove a timeframe allowing for the rebuilding of depleted fishing stocks. He voted against requiring polluters to pay for clean up of toxics or oil that would harm fishing communities.
- ✓ **FOREST MANAGEMENT:** He supported the Forest Service limiting its analysis of logging projects and allowing some to skip environmental review all together. He introduced a bill to implement reforms to tackle litigation and wildfire concerns.” Zinke’s timber reform passed the House, but conservations considered it a top-down approach that did not recognize Montana’s diverse interests.
- ✓ **LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND:** He said the fund was “in need of updates to ensure more money in fact goes toward projects.” But earlier, he said the “program isn’t perfect, but that he supports a temporary reauthorization.”
- ✓ **PUBLIC LANDS:** He has stressed protecting mixed use for public lands. He voted to lift restrictions on kayaks, rafts & other “hand-propelled” vessels on hundreds of miles of rivers and streams in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. He was previously attacked for signing a pledge supporting the transfer of public lands to the state, and has since stated that is no longer his position. He supported a “land grab” bill that opened unprecedented development on public lands. He supported a plan to sell off our public lands, and opposed the North Fork Protection Act.
- ✓ **WATER RESOURCES:** He voted against requiring increased disclosure on groundwater monitoring and against requiring inactive hazardous waste sites to follow groundwater monitoring standards. He even voted to undermine the Clean Water Act.
- ✓ **WILDLIFE & SPECIES PROTECTION:** He voted to allow voluntary vegetation management in certain areas without liability for wildlife damage. He voted to expedite environmental reviews of logging and underbrush removal projects on tribal and federal lands, despite an OMB warning that the bill would undermine public trust in forest management projects. He voted to destroy the Habitat Program, privatizing and commercializing wildlife and hunting opportunities.

## COAL & MINING

### **Zinke Received Assurances Exceptions Would Be Made to Prevent the Loss of Coal Jobs Despite Moratorium**

In 2016, Zinke questioned U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell who suggested companies hoping for public coal would be given a loophole in a federal moratorium on new leases. Jewell said, “We believe we’ve made accommodations so there will be no impact on coal jobs.” According to the *Jamestown Sun*, “Jewell said a number of exceptions were made to assure current coal business was uninterrupted during the leasing moratorium that began Jan. 15. The Obama administration in January said the moratorium was needed so it could determine whether public coal leases were priced for market value and whether the costs of climate change and human health were being considered.” Zinke said, “So, do I have your commitment then that if a mine applies for one of these exceptions your agency will work to ensure they’re processing those requests and the application is done before they have to shut down.” [Jamestown Sun, [3/04/16](#)]

### **Zinke Urged Ignoring Water Concerns, Full Approval to a Silver & Copper Mine Under a Federal Wilderness Area**

In 2016, Zinke and Sen. Steve Daines urged Gov. Steve Bullock to overlook water concerns and grant full approval to a long-stalled silver and copper mine at Montanore proposed beneath a federal wilderness area. *AP* reported, “Montana environmental regulators had granted conditional approval... saying the developer must show before mining can proceed that the \$500 million project won’t drain overlying creeks... Developer Mines Management, Inc. pledged to move forward despite the state’s concerns over water supplies in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.” [AP, 2/12/16]

### **Zinke Criticized Obama’s “War on Coal” for Forcing the Crow Nation to Resort to “Extensive Furloughs”**

In 2016, Zinke distributed a press release criticizing the Obama Administration for forcing the Crow Nation to announce “extensive furloughs” due to “the Obama Administration’s war on coal.” He said, “Chicago is a long ways away from Montana; I imagine Mr. Obama didn’t make it out west very often before running for President... Although he is in his last year, I believe it would be incredibly helpful for President Obama to meet with the Crow who want to provide clean affordable power, meet with out of work loggers in Lincoln County who want to provide lumber to build homes, and meet with ranchers and farmers who grow our nation’s food despite mounting regulations. These are the people who literally feed, power and shelter America, and I think the President should hear their stories.” [Zinke House press release via States News Service, 1/29/16]

### **Zinke: “Responsible Development Of Our Natural Resources Is A Huge Issue As Well Across Our State.”**

“Between Sunday, October 11th and Saturday, October 17th, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke covered 2,000 miles and hosted or attended more than 25 events including more than a dozen town hall style meetings where members of the public were encouraged to come ask Rep. Zinke questions. [...] ‘Responsible development of our natural resources is a huge issue as well across our state. Folks in Colstrip are worried their jobs – and entire town, really – are going to be killed by the EPA, and workers in Baker are begging for the Keystone XL pipeline to be built and the ban on crude exports to be lifted. All this is an issue because Montana workers know the importance of energy to our local economy.’” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “We Need To Invest In Our Clean Coal Resources, Rather Than Perpetually Punish Them.”**

“This study clearly shows President Obama’s carbon regulations are sending Montana towards economic devastation. If our Governor decides to comply with this supposed ‘Clean’ Power Plan, Montanans will suffer. All of Colstrip will have to close, essentially closing the entire town. Over seven thousand jobs will be lost. Energy costs for consumers will skyrocket. Personal income will be devastated. And, even more concerning, our state’s economic activity will decline by almost one billion dollars by 2025. As Montana’s lone Congressman, you can guarantee that I will do whatever is in my power to help keep Colstrip, Montana’s coal industry, and the workers who support it viable. We need to invest in our clean coal resources, rather than perpetually punish them. I believe Montana knows best how to manage our power and our resources, much better than unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. do. In Montana, we value our beautiful lands and clean

air and water, and we all work together to conserve our resources. Our state has already reduced our emissions rates without the federal government getting involved. The plan will kill good-paying union jobs and drive up costs for Montana families and small businesses.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [11/19/15](#)]

***Glasgow Courier: “Zinke Also Hailed The Low Cost Of Coal And Oil As Compared To Solar And Wind Energy.”***

“Montana matters. We’ve got just one representative in the house — but people care what Montana does. [...] Zinke also hailed the low cost of coal and oil as compared to solar and wind energy. Dissenters have said that this has as more to do with Washington’s big oil lobbying interests and the comparative dearth in renewable energy investment vis-a-vis so-called ‘traditional’ fuels. [...] ‘Even if the senate passes the bill, the President still needs to sign it,’ said Zinke, who believes the ‘60-vote rule,’ created in the 1950s, must be amended. ‘Montana matters. We’ve got just one representative in the house — but people care what Montana does. [...] ‘We have to be a [global] competitor, and energy is our savior.” [Glasgow Courier, [10/14/15](#)]

***Zinke Said Coal Reserves In Montana Would “Power The Entire World For 300 Years.”***

“Montana matters. We’ve got just one representative in the house — but people care what Montana does. [...] He nodded to data which posits that the state has enough coal reserves to ‘power the entire world for 300 years,’ and, after decrying the U.S.’s continued dependence on foreign oil, dished his take on the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project. ‘If you don’t know Glasgow, Butte, and Bozeman,’ he said in his soothing baritone timbre, ‘you’re not in proper position to make a ruling that’ll directly affect Glasgow, Butte, and Bozeman.’ He noted the employment boom Montana would see from the bill’s passage, as well as the lessened dependence the nation would have on foreign energy.” [Glasgow Courier, [10/14/15](#)]

***Zinke Signed Letter That Was Similar To A Coal Industry Letter Warning The Feds To Tread Lightly On Publicly Owned Fossil Fuels***

“When more than a dozen elected officials copy, and then pass off as their own, a coal industry letter warning the feds to tread lightly on publicly owned fossil fuels, is that carbon copying? [...] U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., was credited in the press for leading the drive to get the comment period extended. His own letter, signed by 14 other congressmen, including Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., and Wyoming’s delegation, contained passages similar to the Cloud Peak letter, but wasn’t nearly verbatim like the other letters.” [Billings Gazette, [4/15/15](#)]

***Zinke Voted To Require The Secretary Of The Air Force To Implement Cost-Effective Facility Heating Agreements In The Kaserlautern Military Community In Germany, Provided Agreements Include U.S. Coal As The Base Load Energy***

In June 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Huffman, D-Calif., amendment that would strike section 8053 of the bill, which would require the secretary of the Air Force to implement cost-effective facility heating agreements in the Kaserlautern Military Community in Germany provided that such agreements include U.S. coal as the base load energy for municipal district heat at U.S. defense installations.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 252-179. [CQ, [6/10/15](#); Huffman Amdt. No. 4 to H.R. 2685, Vote 335, [6/10/15](#)]

***Zinke Supported Transitioning Coal To A “Cleaner Source Of Energy” That Could Be Exported To Countries “Who Have Responsible Environmental Controls.”***

“Washington state’s newest proponents of coal exports aren’t actually in the state at all. Montana economic leaders are stepping up pressure for coal exports through Washington state, pushing back against strong opposition among Seattle environmentalists and politicians, and among many Native American tribal leaders. [...] With just over 1 million people, Montana’s economy is far more dependent on natural resources, including coal, than Washington’s. Although to be sure, Montana’s economy isn’t doing badly. The state boasts 3.9 percent unemployment according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, compared to 5.3 percent in Washington. Zinke, a former Navy Seal who sits on the House Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee, argues that exporting coal is not as black as it is painted. ‘Let’s not kill coal. Let’s

transition it to a cleaner source of energy,' he said. 'Better to export energy to our allies, who have responsible environmental controls.' [Puget Sound Business Journal, [8/18/15](#)]

#### **Billings Gazette: Zinke "Proposed Blocking DOI From Spending Money On Retooling Royalties"**

"Short on time and chances, House Republicans from coal, oil and gas states are making one last attempt at derailing an increase in the royalties companies pay to pull profit from public lands. Led by Reps. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., and Steve Pearce, R-NM, lawmakers are asking that a rider blocking royalty increases be added to any year-end appropriations measure, of which there are no more than two. Also, time is running out. The House is scheduled to end its year Dec. 16. [...] Western state Republican lawmakers appeared to block the royalties from increasing earlier by adding amendments to a funding bill for the Department of Interior. Zinke in June had proposed blocking DOI from spending money on retooling royalties, both on federal and Indian land." [Billings Gazette, [12/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Proposal To Block DOI's Royalty Work Was Abandoned By Speaker Boehner Shutting Down The Amendment Process For The Interior Bill**

"Short on time and chances, House Republicans from coal, oil and gas states are making one last attempt at derailing an increase in the royalties companies pay to pull profit from public lands. [...] The amendment seemed to have support, but then House politics were thrown a curveball. A gunman, Dylann Roof, had killed nine people at the predominantly African American Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. After photos of Roof holding a Confederate flag emerged, House Democrats pushed to have the flag banned from federal properties. A flag amendment was offered for the Interior bill, and Speaker John Boehner shut down the amendment process, stranding Zinke's attempt to block DOI's royalty work. The amendment remained stranded for five months." [Billings Gazette, [12/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Circulated A Petition To Revive His Proposal To Block DOI's Work On Retooling Coal Royalties**

"Short on time and chances, House Republicans from coal, oil and gas states are making one last attempt at derailing an increase in the royalties companies pay to pull profit from public lands. [...] Then days before Thanksgiving, Zinke and Pearce, who had a similar measure, began circulating a petition to revive blocking DOI's royalty work. Their letter to would-be cosigners, topped with endorsements from two giants of Western mining, Arch Coal and Cloud Peak Energy, netted signatures from 16 lawmakers from coal, oil and gas states. The New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Western Energy Alliance and National Mining Association, also lent their endorsements." [Billings Gazette, [12/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Spox Said The Request For A Rider Was Sent To House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers, But There's Been No Word About Whether The Rider Will Be Added To The Larger Spending Bill**

"Short on time and chances, House Republicans from coal, oil and gas states are making one last attempt at derailing an increase in the royalties companies pay to pull profit from public lands. [...] It's been three weeks since the request for a rider was sent to House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers, but there's been no word about whether the rider will be added, said Heather Swift, Zinke's communications director. With a handful of congressional working days left in the year, lawmakers were waiting to see if the language would appear in a year-end omnibus spending bill necessary to keep the government from shutting down. Without the rider, the Department of Interior will be free to continue its work on retooling the way royalties are collected." [Billings Gazette, [12/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Questioned Former Montana Official's Opposition To Coal Royalties**

"The Western battle over royalties that companies pay for coal, oil and gas taken from public lands spilled into Congress on Tuesday, where lawmakers and witnesses from Montana and Wyoming squared off. Former Montana Department of Revenue Director Dan Bucks told the House Natural Resources Committee that more needed to be done to ensure the public was getting its money's worth from coal, oil and gas leases on federal public lands. He scoffed at coal industry suggestions that higher royalties would kill mining. [...] U.S. Rep.

Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., arrived at the tail end of the meeting, just in time to question Bucks' objections to coal royalties. When in office, former Gov. Schweitzer said coal companies weren't underpaying state taxes, Zinke pointed out. So, why was Bucks now saying coal companies weren't paying enough? Bucks said state Department of Revenue officials were auditing coal companies during Schweitzer's tenure, but state law prevented Bucks from disclosing the audits to Schweitzer until the investigations were completed. 'I was subject to going to jail and losing my position and having ended my career if I briefed him on these matters,' Bucks said. Zinke said something should have been said to Schweitzer. 'Any member working for a governor to not disclose there's audits taking place, understanding that you cannot discuss what the results of those audits are, I think does not pay much attention and does a disservice,' Zinke said." [Independent Record, [12/9/15](#)]

***Independent Record: “[MT] State Law Prevented Bucks From Disclosing The Audits To Schweitzer Until The Investigations Were Completed.”***

“The Western battle over royalties that companies pay for coal, oil and gas taken from public lands spilled into Congress on Tuesday, where lawmakers and witnesses from Montana and Wyoming squared off. Former Montana Department of Revenue Director Dan Bucks told the House Natural Resources Committee that more needed to be done to ensure the public was getting its money's worth from coal, oil and gas leases on federal public lands. He scoffed at coal industry suggestions that higher royalties would kill mining. [...] U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., arrived at the tail end of the meeting, just in time to question Bucks' objections to coal royalties. When in office, former Gov. Schweitzer said coal companies weren't underpaying state taxes, Zinke pointed out. So, why was Bucks now saying coal companies weren't paying enough? Bucks said state Department of Revenue officials were auditing coal companies during Schweitzer's tenure, but state law prevented Bucks from disclosing the audits to Schweitzer until the investigations were completed. 'I was subject to going to jail and losing my position and having ended my career if I briefed him on these matters,' Bucks said. Zinke said something should have been said to Schweitzer. 'Any member working for a governor to not disclose there's audits taking place, understanding that you cannot discuss what the results of those audits are, I think does not pay much attention and does a disservice,' Zinke said.” [Independent Record, [12/9/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted for National Strategic & Critical Minerals Production Act Of 2015**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would deem mining operations of ‘strategic and critical minerals’ as ‘infrastructure projects’ as described in a 2012 presidential order regarding permitting of infrastructure projects. The bill would define ‘strategic and critical minerals’ as those that are essential for national defense, energy infrastructure, domestic manufacturing, and for the nation’s economic security. The bill would require the lead agency responsible for issuing mining permits to appoint a project lead to coordinate interagency permitting to minimize delays and set timelines. The bill also would deem requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act to have been met if the lead agency determines that any state or federal agency has or will address certain factors specified in the bill, including the environmental impact and public participation. The bill also would limit to 60 days the period in which civil action could be taken against the federal government regarding a mining permit and prevent the awarding of attorney’s fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.” The bill passed by 254-177. [CQ, [10/22/15](#), H.R. 1937, Vote 565, [10/22/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To End Debate to Deem Certain Mining Operations As “Infrastructure Projects.”**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Newhouse, R-Wash., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and the possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 481) that would provide for House floor consideration the bill (HR 1937) that would deem certain mining operations as ‘infrastructure projects’ as described in a 2012 presidential order regarding permitting of infrastructure projects.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 243-184. [CQ, [10/21/15](#); H.R. 1937; Vote 555, [10/21/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted Against Changing Definition Of Strategic And Critical Minerals To Ones Identified By 2008 National Resource Council Report And Excluding Sand, Gravel, And Clay From Definition**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Lowenthal, D-Calif, amendment that would change the bill’s definition of ‘strategic and critical minerals’ to those identified by the National Research Council in a 2008

report, and also would specifically exclude sand, gravel and clay.” The amendment was rejected 176-253. [CQ, [10/22/15](#), H.Amdt. 724 to H.R. 1937, Vote 560, [10/22/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring The Issuing Of Mining Permits To Be Reviewed Under National Environmental Policy Act**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Dingell, D-Mich, amendment that would require the issuance of mining permits of be reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act.” The amendment was rejected 181-248. [CQ, [10/22/15](#), H.Amdt. 725 to H.R. 1937, Vote 561, [10/22/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Limit Civil Action Against Federal Government On Mining Permits To 60 Days And Prevent Attorney’s Fees From Being Awarded For Civil Actions**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Cartwright, D-Pa., amendment that would remove the portion of the bill regarding judicial review. The section of the bill that would be removed includes provisions that would limit to 60 days the period in which civil action could be taken against the federal government regarding a mining permit and that would prevent the awarding of attorney’s fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.” The amendment was rejected 184-245. [CQ, [10/22/15](#), H.Amdt. 726 to H.R. 1937, Vote 562, [10/22/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Tying Coverage For Mines Under National Strategic And Critical Minerals Production Act To Domestic Demand For Minerals, Requiring That For A Mine To Be Covered, Existing Mines Were Only Producing 80% Of Amount In Demand**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Hastings, D-Fla., amendment that would require proposed mining operations, in order to be covered under the bill, to demonstrate that the combined capacity of existing domestic mining operations that produce the same mineral is less than 80 percent of the domestic demand for the mineral.” The amendment was rejected by 183-246. [CQ, [10/22/15](#), H.Amdt.728 to H.R. 1937, Vote 563, [10/22/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Ensuring National Strategic And Critical Minerals Production Act Would Not Limit Authority Of Lead Permitting Agency To Determine If Activities Would Contribute To Climate Change**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Peters, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Natural Resources Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would state that the bill would not limit the authority of the lead permitting agency to assess the proposed activity’s potential contribution to climate change.” The motion was rejected 184-246. [CQ, [10/22/15](#), H.R. 1937, Vote 564, [10/22/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Supported USFS Approval Of Montanore Mine Project, Urged “A Favorable” Final Decision By Montana DEQ And USFS**

Zinke said, “I am happy to hear the USFS approved the Montanore Mine project last week. Lincoln County and the Libby community stand to benefit from hundreds of jobs that will empower the local economy with good paying jobs and much needed revenue for local education and infrastructure projects. In the wake of mines shuttering across Montana, this is welcome news. I urge a favorable final decision by the Forest Service and Montana DEQ.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [3/30/15](#)]

#### **Flathead Beacon: Zinke Said Extraction of Natural Resources Was Discouraged By Environmental Litigation**

“It’s late August in Montana and the North Fork of the Flathead River is running low and slow, snaking through a chalky corridor of wildfire smoke, its steep banks inscribed with the tracks of deer and grizzly bears, wallpapered with a mix of blackened snags and young lodgepole pine, and scored with clusters of radiant fireweed. [...] Zinke also is a proponent for ‘responsible’ extraction of natural resources, which he says has been discouraged by environmental litigation, and his version of timber reform includes scaling back environmental measures that groups suing frequently rely upon. ‘We live in Montana for a reason, because we

enjoy clean water, clean air and the outdoors. But it has to be about multiple use and not single use,' Zinke said. 'I think we have lost our way in a lot of ways. We can mine and drill and still be responsible stewards of the land we cherish. Coal, oil and natural gas are going to be part of our energy picture for a long time and there is no doubt when it comes to energy that Montana has an important role to play.' [Flathead Beacon, [10/21/15](#)]

### **Did Not Vote On Allowing States To Create Their Own Coal Ash Disposal And Storage Programs**

In July 2015, Zinke did not vote on a bill that “would establish minimum federal standards regarding the disposal and storage of coal combustion residuals (CCR) that would codify parts of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) rule regarding coal ash, while superseding other elements of the rule. Additionally, the bill would permit states to create their own coal ash permit programs, but would provide for EPA oversight of the bill’s standards in cases when a state lacks its own program or fails to meet the standards set in the bill. It also would provide that coal ash received by manufacturers who intend to use it for other beneficial uses would not to be considered as a receipt of CCR for state permitting purposes.” The amendment passed, 258-166. [HR 1734, [Vote #458](#), 7/22/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Bill Would Allow Coal Ash Into Groundwater**

“The Republican-led House of Representatives struck another blow to environmental regulation Wednesday night, passing a bill that will undercut the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) coal ash regulations, opponents said . . . . Among the differences, she said, is the fact that the EPA rule prohibits disposing coal ash waste directly into the water supply, while the House bill does not. In a survey the EPA did of state laws on coal ash, only five of the 25 states surveyed specifically prohibited disposing of coal ash into groundwater, Evans said.” [Think Progress, [7/23/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Prohibiting Coal Rules To Go Into Effect If It Harmed Infants, Children, And The Elderly**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would prohibit the measure from going into effect if the Environmental Protection Agency determines it will have a negative impact on vulnerable populations, such as infants, children, the elderly, and other subsections of the population identified as vulnerable.” The amendment failed, 180-240. [HR 1734, [Vote #456](#), 7/22/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To End Debate And Consider A Bill That Would Establish Minimum Federal Standards Regarding The Disposal And Storage Of Coal Combustion Residuals That Would Codify Parts Of The Environmental Protection Agency’s Rule Regarding Coal Ash**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: “Byrne, R-Ala., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 369) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 1734) that would establish minimum federal standards regarding the disposal and storage of coal combustion residuals that would codify parts of the Environmental Protection Agency’s rule regarding coal ash, while superseding other elements of the agency rule, and the bill (HR 1599) that would require the Agriculture Department to establish a voluntary national genetically engineered food certification program and would preempt related state and local laws.” The motion was agreed to 239-167. [CQ, [7/22/15](#); H.Res.369, Vote 450, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Consider A Bill That Would Establish Minimum Federal Standards Regarding The Disposal And Storage Of Coal Combustion Residuals That Would Codify Parts Of The Environmental Protection Agency’s Rule Regarding Coal Ash**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 369) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 1734) that would establish minimum federal standards regarding the disposal and storage of coal combustion residuals that would codify parts of the Environmental Protection Agency’s rule regarding coal ash, while superseding other elements of the agency rule, and the bill (HR 1599) that would require the Agriculture Department to establish a voluntary national genetically engineered food certification program and would preempt related state and local laws.” The rule was adopted 242-175. [CQ, [7/22/15](#); H.Res.369, Vote 451, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Require That Coal Ash Pond Owners And Operators Test All Nearby Drinking Water Wells And To Supply Safe Drinking Water Within 24 Hours If Wells Were Contaminated**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for an: “Adams, D-N.C., amendment that would require the owner or operator of a coal combustion residuals surface impoundment to survey all nearby drinking water supply wells and to supply an alternative source of safe drinking water within 24 hours if well water sampling exceeds groundwater quality standards for constituents associated with the presence of coal combustion residuals.” The amendment was rejected 192-231. [CQ, [7/22/15](#), H.Amdt.676 to H.R. 1734, Vote 455, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring That All Coal Ash Surface Storage Met Criteria To Prevent Toxic Contamination Of Ground Water, And To Protect Drinking Water, Including The Great Lakes**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Foster, D-Ill., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would require implementing agencies to require that all surface impoundment structures meet criteria sufficient to prevent toxic contamination of ground water and to protect drinking water sources, including the Great Lakes.” The motion was rejected by 184-240. [CQ, [7/22/15](#), H.R. 1734, Vote 457, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring All Inactive Surface Impoundments Follow Post-Closure Groundwater Monitoring Standards To Meet Current Public Disclosure Requirements**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against: “Pallone, D-N.J., amendment that would require all inactive surface impoundments follow post-closure groundwater monitoring standards to meet current public disclosure requirements.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by 177-244. [CQ, [7/22/15](#); H.Amdt.673 to H.R.1734, Vote 453, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring All Inactive Surface Impoundments To Follow Post-Closure Groundwater Monitoring Standards In The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Rule**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against: “Connolly, D-Va., amendment that would require all inactive surface impoundments to follow post-closure groundwater monitoring standards in the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) rule.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by 177-245. [CQ, [7/22/15](#); H.Amdt.675 to H.R.1734, Vote 454, [7/22/15](#)]

### **2014: “Opening the Mine [...] Is My Number One Priority to the State”**

In May 2014, while speaking to the Libby based publication, *Western News*, Zinke said he’s “number one priority to the state” was “opening the mine.” Zinke said, “I am committed to opening the mine. This is my number one priority to the state. It is not just because I am from Whitefish, because as a congressman you represent the entirety of the state. Libby is ground zero for what is wrong. The mine should have been approved within six months.” [Western News, 5/16/14]

### **Zinke Tweeted “Protect the Coal Industry”**

On October 28, 2013, Zinke tweeted “let’s tell the EPA to reconsider hosting a listening session in Montana, protect the coal industry!” [Twitter, [10/28/13](#)]

## **DISASTER AID – NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Voted Against Increasing Funding For Inland Oil Spill Programs By More Than \$5 Million**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to increase funding for inland oil spill programs. The Amendment would reduce funding for Bureau of Ocean Energy Management by \$5,434,000 and to increase funding for Inland Oil Spill Programs by a similar amount. According to the amendment’s sponsor, Rep. Lois Capps, “When it comes to oil spills, the damage gets worse by the minute, so ensuring that spill response teams are properly trained and prepared to respond quickly is essential to minimizing the impacts. This is precisely why the EPA has jurisdiction over the inland oil spill program. ... Despite its scope and importance, this program has been seriously underfunded for years, and H.R. 2822 only makes things worse by funding this program at nearly 25 percent less than the President Requested. My amendment would simply increase funding

for this program by 5.4 million, to match the President’s requested amount of \$23.4 million for fiscal year 2016.” The amendment failed, 184 to 243. [HR 2822, [Vote #394](#), 7/08/15; Bill Summary, Library of Congress, [7/08/15](#), House Congressional Record, Page H4741, [6/25/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Striking Provision Allowing Vacant Public Land Grazing Allotments When Existing Allotment Is Unusable Due To Drought Or Wild Fire**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against “an amendment to strike section 433, which provides for vacant public land grazing allotments when an existing allotment is unusable due to drought or wildfire.” The amendment failed 178 to 251. [HR 2822, [Vote #399](#), 7/08/15; H AMDT 570, [7/08/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Preserving Legal Recourse To Catastrophic Event Salvage & Reforestation Projects**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would “strike section 203 and Title III from the bill, which impose restrictions on lawsuits. Section 203 prohibits restraining orders, preliminary injunctions and injunctions pending appeal against salvage and reforestation projects conducted in response to catastrophic events.” The amendment failed, 181 to 247. [HR 2647, [Vote #427](#), 7/09/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/09/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Storm Impact Prevention, FEMA Funding**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against a bill “that would authorize \$21 million per year from fiscal 2015-2017 for the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. For each year, it would authorize \$5.3 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, \$9.7 million for the National Science Foundation, \$4.1 million for the National Institutes for Standards and Technology and \$2.3 million for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.” The bill passed 381-39. [HR 23, [Vote #10](#), 1/07/15; CQ Votes]

## **FISHING**

#### **Zinke Voted to Reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act Through FY 2019**

In June 2015 Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act through fiscal year 2019. The measure would authorize \$397 million annually through fiscal year 2019 for federal activities to carry out the law. The bill would eliminate the requirement under current law that generally establishes a 10-year period for rebuilding overfished or depleted fisheries and would instead require regional fishery councils to set rebuilding periods to the time it would take for the fishery to rebuild without any fishing occurring, plus one additional generation to be spawned. The measure also would modify various requirements regarding “catch limits” for specific species included in fisheries management plans and would prohibit fisheries councils in four regions from implementing any new “catch share” program unless it has been approved by an industry referendum vote; it would allow such programs to be implemented in the other four regions only if a majority of those eligible to participate in the fishery first petitions the department. The measure also would extend state management for recreational fishing of the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico out to nine nautical miles from the coast and includes a number of provisions dealing with data collection, such as a requirement for each council to identify fisheries in its region that are considered to be “data poor” and to prioritize data collection on those fisheries. As amended, the bill would require the Commerce secretary to develop guidelines to facilitate greater incorporation of data, analysis and stock assessments from nongovernmental sources into fisheries management decisions and require councils to use such data that meet the guidelines as the best scientific information available in fisheries management decisions unless otherwise determined by council science and statistical committees.” The bill passed 225-152. [CQ, [6/1/15](#); H.R.1335, Vote 267, [6/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Eliminating Requirements For Certain Environmental Reviews To Be Subservient To The Magnuson-Stevens Act**

In June 2015 Zinke voted against: “Dingell, D-Mich., amendment that would eliminate the bill’s requirements for certain environmental reviews to be subservient to the Magnuson-Stevens Act.” The amendment was rejected 155-223. [CQ, [6/1/15](#); Dingell Amdt. 1 to H.R.1335, Vote 264, [6/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring the National Ocean Council Develop Process For Decommissioning Oil & Gas Platforms & Drilling Rigs**

In June 2015 Zinke voted against: “Lowenthal, D-Calif., amendment that would require the National Ocean Council to develop a process for decommissioning oil and gas platforms and drilling rigs to eliminate harm to red snapper stock in the Gulf of Mexico.” The amendment was rejected 149-227. [CQ, [6/1/15](#); Lowenthal Amdt. 4 to H.R.1335, Vote 265, [6/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Stating in a Oil or Hazardous Materials Spill, No Amendments to Fishery Conservation Requirements Would Be in Effect**

In June 2015 Zinke voted against: “Peters, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Natural Resources Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would add a section to the bill that would state that in the aftermath of an oil or hazardous materials spill, none of the amendments to fishery conservation requirements that would be made by certain sections of the bill would apply to any fishery impacted by the spill until specified conditions are met. Those conditions would include: assessment by the relevant Fishery Management Council on the impacts on fish, fishing communities and marine environment; payment by the polluter for any cleanup and provision of compensation for the economic and job loss to the U.S. fishing industry and communities; payment by the polluter to test fish to ensure consumers are protected from toxins that have entered the food chain and to test water quality to help fishermen avoid areas of pollution and find the safest areas to fish.” The motion was rejected 155-223. [CQ, [6/1/15](#); H.R.1335, Vote 266, [6/1/15](#)]

### **Voted to Require Any Plan To Address Salmon Recovery Include Examination Of Predator Impact, Not Just Water Flow**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment requiring any recovery plan for salmon require that attention be placed on whether predators, not just water flows, have an impact. “An issue at the heart of our water debates – whether nonnative fish prey heavily on salmon and steelhead – wriggled through Congress this week. The U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment proposed by Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Turlock, that would require attention to this issue in any recovery plan for salmon or steelhead under the Endangered Species Act ... The idea raises concerns in two camps – environmental groups and bass anglers. The former say predation could be part of the problem but the biggest need is increased flows in rivers. The latter do not want to lose a fish that is among the most popular in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its tributaries.” The amendment passed, 245 to 181. [HR 2578, [Amendment #86](#), [Vote #295](#), 6/03/15; Modesto Bee, [6/05/15](#)]

### **Voted For Bill Removing Timeframe Which Allowed For Rebuilding Of Depleted Fishing Stocks**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, to remove the ten-year timeframe, which allowed for the rebuilding of depleted fishing stocks. “Defying a White House veto threat, the Republican-controlled House on Monday approved a bill to give regional fisheries managers more power to set local fishing levels in federal waters. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, would remove a 10-year timeframe for rebuilding depleted fish stocks and allow fisheries managers to consider the economic needs of fishing communities in setting annual catch limits.” The bill passed 225 to 152. [HR 1335, [Vote #267](#), 6/01/15; AP, [6/01/15](#)]

### **Alaska Public Radio: Opponents Believed Bill Would Allow Commercial Interests To Push Managers To Set Too High Of Harvest Levels**

“A bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the nation’s primary fishing law, passed the U.S. House this evening, largely on party lines. The sponsor, Alaska Congressman Don Young, says the bill makes practical

revisions to continue a law that has restored the health of America's fisheries. ... Young's bill also introduces a controversial element of flexibility in fisheries management. It would eliminate the mandatory 10-year planning period for rebuilding depleted stocks. Opponents says that allows for commercial interests to pressure managers to set harvest levels too high. Young, though, says the rebuilding time frame should vary, depending on the needs of the species." [Alaska Public Radio, [6/01/15](#)]

### **NRC: 43% Of Fish Stocks Classified As Overfished Were "Rebuilt Or Showed Good Progress Toward Rebuilding Within 10 Years"**

"A 2013 report by the independent National Research Council found that federal efforts to rebuild depleted fish populations have largely been successful, but said pressure to overfish some species remains high and some fish stocks have not rebounded as quickly as projected. Forty-three percent of fish stocks identified as being overfished were rebuilt or showed good progress toward rebuilding within 10 years, the time limit required by the Magnuson-Stevens law, the report said. Another 31 percent were on track to rebuild if sharply reduced fishing levels remain in place, the report said." [AP, [6/01/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Requiring "Polluters" Pay For Clean-Up Of Toxics Or Oil That Would Harm Fishing Communities**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to recommit which would require "polluters" to pay for clean-up of a toxic spill or oil spill that would harm fisheries, fishing jobs or fishing communities. "The Democratic recommit amendment protects our fisheries and forces polluters to pay for cleanup of a toxic spill or oil spill that harms fisheries, fishing jobs, and local fishing communities." The motion failed 155 to 233. [HR 1335, [Vote #266](#), 6/01/15; Motion To Recommit, [6/01/15](#)]

### **Voted For Considering Bill to Create "Dangerous Exemptions from Catch Limits" Designed to Prevent Overfishing**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for considering reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which "provide[s] flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fisherman[.]" U.S. Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) has proposed several changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that he says will give fishery managers more flexibility in rebuilding fish stocks. He has said the changes will allow fishery managers to address the economic needs of fishermen. But some fishermen and environmentalists said Young's proposal creates dangerous exemptions from catch limits that are designed to prevent overfishing. They point to a recent federal report that says several economically valuable East Coast fish stocks are rebounding and no longer subject to overfishing as evidence that the Magnuson-Stevens act is effective in its current form." The resolution passed 237 to 174. [H Res 274, [Vote #215](#), 5/21/14; AP, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Rep. Raul Grijalva: "HR 1335 Would Take Us Back To The Dark Ages By Gutting Science-Based Requirements To Rebuild Overfished Stocks And Set Annual Catch Limits"**

"The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee today passed a bill to renew the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the nation's fundamental fisheries law. The sponsor, Alaska Congressman Don Young, says the law has kept foreign fishing fleets off America's shores and sustained healthy fisheries. ... 'H.R. 1335 would take us back to the dark ages by gutting science-based requirements to rebuild overfished stocks and to set annual catch limits,' said Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, the committee's top Democrat." [Alaska Public Radio, [4/30/15](#)]

## **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

### **Zinke Supported Allowing Forest Service to Limit Its Analysis of Logging Projects & Some Skip Enviro. Review**

"Proposals to speed up logging projects apparently killed chances for fixing the U.S. Forest Service's 'fire borrowing' problem as Congress moved an omnibus budget bill toward passage Wednesday. [...] The fire-borrowing plan was linked to a forest management rider pushed by Zinke. The rider would have allowed the Forest Service to limit its analysis of logging projects to only the proposed version or no action (instead of

looking at multiple options of varying sizes), and allow logging projects of 3,000 acres or less to skip some environmental review through ‘categorical analysis’ if they’re supported by collaborative groups. ‘In the House, Rep. Zinke was able to build up Democratic support for his forest bill because it focuses on local collaboration and active management as well as targeting frivolous lawsuits,’ Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email. ‘But there are some in the Senate who ignore the facts and don’t believe active forest management will help Montana against wildfires.’ [...] Zinke’s proposals to require bonding and binding arbitration from logging sale opponents was stripped out of the version that got attached to the fire borrowing legislation.” [Missoulia, [12/17/15](#)]

**Zinke Spox: “In The House, Rep. Zinke Was Able To Build Up Democratic Support For His Forest Bill Because It Focuses On Local Collaboration And Active Management As Well As Targeting Frivolous Lawsuits.”**

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**Zinke Spoke On The House Floor And Urged His Colleagues In The Senate To Bring Up His Forest Reform**

“This week is National Forest Products Week. Timber is an important industry in Montana and supports more than 7,000 jobs. But thanks to catastrophic wildfires and gross mismanagement, many of those jobs are disappearing. It’s time to act. when a bipartisan bill comes out of this House and the Senate refuses to pick it up, it has consequences on Montana and it has consequences on hard working families who just want to make a living in timber. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to get on board, start fighting for Montana loggers and our forests.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [10/22/15](#); YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [10/22/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **Zinke Said The Resilient Federal Forests Act Of 2015 Would Allow Tribes To Hire Employees Without Having To Get Approval From Washington, DC**

“A group of around a couple dozen people gathered at the Junction Drive Inn Monday morning, Oct. 12, to have coffee with Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke, the first stop on his listening tour of Montana towns. [...] Zinke talked about a bill that passed the House of Representatives last July. Called the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015, he said it would allow Tribes to hire employees without having to get approval from Washington, DC. While he said he’d talked to Montana Senator Jon Tester to get his sponsorship in the Senate, Zinke said that so far it’s not come up for a vote. ‘Our forests are in tough shape,’ he said. The bill adds no environmental regulations, empowers the U.S. Forest Service to address ‘71 million acres of backlog,’ and rewards collaborative efforts. ‘We’ve got to empower local Tribal foresters to make their own decisions.’ [Golden Triangle News, [10/14/15](#)]

## **Zinke Spox Said It Was A “False Narrative” That Zinke’s Resilient Federal Forests Act “Skirted” Environmental Review**

“The Gallatin Valley didn’t see major fires in its forests this year, but the large fire season nationwide has tied up a significant portion of the Custer Gallatin National Forest’s budget. [...] A couple of bills moving through Congress address the issue and have some level of support from the Montana delegation. The Resilient Federal Forests Act has support from Republicans Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Ryan Zinke. The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act is the other bill, and it has support from both Republican members of the delegation and Democratic Sen. Jon Tester. [...] The Resilient Federal Forests Act also includes reforms that have ruffled some feathers in the environmental community. Some portions would cut back the level of environmental review required for thinning operations — in essence trying to speed up the process of cutting down trees. Brennan, of The Wilderness Society, said that bill was an example of some in Congress seeing the funding crisis as a chance to ‘gut environmental laws and to return to the bygone days of unsustainable logging.’ Zinke was a co-author of that bill. His spokeswoman Heather Swift calls the idea that environmental review will be reduced a ‘false narrative.’ ‘Not a single environmental analysis will be skirted,’ Swift said.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [9/27/15](#)]

## **Zinke Requested The Senate Amend His Forest Reform Bill If They Did Not Like A Provision, And Claimed “No Action” On The Bill Was “Unacceptable.”**

In September 2015, Zinke said on the House Floor: “Take the bill up, and if you don’t like a provision in the bill then show leadership and put an amendment on it, and we will work together to fix it. That’s what leadership does. But to sit there and not take up the bill, and have no action is unacceptable.” [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [9/18/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **Zinke On Forest Reform: “The Bill Has All The Environmental Protections We Need, But It Doesn’t Reward Government-Funded Lawsuits That Are Frivolous.”**

“After visiting both the Glacier Rim fire and the U.S. Forest Service’s Technology and Development Center, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke said forest management is better left in hands closer to the problems than Washington, D.C. [...] ‘The bill has all the environmental protections we need, but it doesn’t reward government-funded lawsuits that are frivolous,’ Zinke said. ‘No one can say our forests are in good shape right now.’ [Ravalli Republic, [7/2/15](#)]

## **Zinke: “No One Can Say Our Forests Are In Good Shape Right Now.”**

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### **Zinke On Forest Reform: “We Need To Incur A Little More Risk And Get Things Done Faster.”**

“After visiting both the Glacier Rim fire and the U.S. Forest Service’s Technology and Development Center, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke said forest management is better left in hands closer to the problems than Washington, D.C. ‘We need to incur a little more risk and get things done faster,’ the Republican congressman from Montana said while touring a parachute design lab at the Missoula center Thursday. ‘Washington is too bureaucratic and process-oriented, not results-driven.’ Zinke was promoting his National Forest Collaborative Incentive Act of 2015 to speed up collaborative forest projects.” [Lee State Bureau, [7/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Blamed The Glacier Rim Fire On The Lack Of “Timber Reduction” In The Area**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke says this summer’s explosive fire season shows the forest management reforms in his ‘Forest Bill’ are needed to counter the catastrophe of wildfires. [...] However, he believes the challenges the Forest Service and other land agencies face are directly tied to the backlog of forest management operations. He points to one of the first fires of the season as proof, the Glacier Rim Fire, which started in the North Fork on lands burned in 2003. ‘And they weren’t allowed to do timber reduction and go in there and clear the dead and dying trees. So then you have a re-burn; standing timber makes it too dangerous for firefighters,’ Zinke stated.” [KPAX, [9/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Resilient Federal Forests Act Would “Reward Collaborative Efforts” So The Forest Service Would Not “Skirt [...] Environmental Laws.”**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke says this summer’s explosive fire season shows the forest management reforms in his ‘Forest Bill’ are needed to counter the catastrophe of wildfires. [...] Zinke’s solution is ‘Resilient Federal Forests Act’, which passed the House in July. It aims to drive a collaborative effort to get government agencies and conservation and environmental groups to work together on planning forest projects. It would require objectors not participating in the collaboration to post a bond before they sue. Zinke says it would change a system where the Forest Service spends money firefighting first, litigating second and managing third, ‘and I think we need to reverse that. Reward collaborative efforts. So it doesn’t skirt and environmental laws.” [KPAX, [9/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Would Consider A Senate Amendment To The Resilient Federal Forest Act**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke says this summer’s explosive fire season shows the forest management reforms in his ‘Forest Bill’ are needed to counter the catastrophe of wildfires. [...] Zinke’s solution is ‘Resilient Federal Forests Act’, which passed the House in July. [...] Opponents claim the measure interferes with the public’s rights to challenging logging projects. Zinke isn’t sure if the Senate will concur, but he’s hopeful. ‘If they want to tweak it then put an amendment on it and we’ll talk about it. But status quo is just unacceptable,’ he said. ‘or Montana, I think it’s just about right. Let’s move the ball up the field and start to restore the forest, and the reason why we live here.’ [KPAX, [9/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said His Resilient Federal Forests Act Was Not A “Wilderness Bill” Because A Wilderness Bill Would Not Put Fires Out**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote: “This is not a new problem. Montana has been a tinderbox for a long time. Rather than sit idly by as our forests go up in smoke, I took action. Earlier this summer, I co-authored the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015 to help end the catastrophic wildfires that plague Montana and other western states. This is not a wilderness bill; this is a forest reform bill. A wilderness bill will not prevent wildfires, nor will it put them out.” [Daily Inter Lake, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said His Resilient Federal Forest Act Would “Incentivize Local Collaboration On Timber Projects, Second Streamline Bureaucratic Process To Expedite Thinning And Salvage Projects, And Third Dissuade Frivolous Litigation That Grinds Forest Management To A Halt.”**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote: “This bill was the result of both my own experience living in western Montana and also years of Congressional hearings, investigations, reports and public debate. It will bolster wildfire prevention by waging a proactive assault from multiple angles: First it will incentivize local

collaboration on timber projects, second streamline bureaucratic process to expedite thinning and salvage projects, and third dissuade frivolous litigation that grinds forest management to a halt. It also solves the wildfire ‘borrowing problem’ by allowing the USFS to use funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fight fires.” [Daily Inter Lake, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/3/15](#)]

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### **Zinke Said The Resilient Federal Forest Act Gave “Everyone A Seat At The Negotiating Table.”**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote: “More than 170 sportsmen, tribal, conservation, local government and industry groups, as well as retired forest rangers, have endorsed the legislation because it’s common sense solutions that can be implemented on day one. However, some outlying environmental groups contest the bill because they claim it doesn’t give them enough say in projects. That is simply not true. The sections of the bill I authored emphasize and encourage local collaboration. This bill gives everyone a seat at the negotiating table. The only groups who will not have a say are the groups who choose not to participate. As a military officer I know the importance of teamwork, and the more locals are involved, the better the project will be in the end. However, these outlying groups often choose not to participate and have less of a teamwork mentality and more of a mindset of ‘I’m going to take my ball and go home.’ Unfortunately that translates to launching a lawsuit to cancel a project completely.” [Daily Inter Lake, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said “Several Environmental Impact Studies” Proved Thinning Forest Is Good For The Environment**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote: “One of the most vocal opponents to the Resilient Federal Forests Act, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, recently filed suit against the Forest Service for the Forest Stewardship Program, a project to harvest beetle-killed timber in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The litigants claim thinning is bad for the environment; however several environmental impact studies prove otherwise. The Forest Stewardship Program is 9 years in the works. It is by all means a collaborative effort aimed at thinning areas the USFS, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, county commissioners and Trout Unlimited say is unnatural and negatively impacting the watershed, and thus wildlife. As the Watershed Restoration Council noted, ‘conifer encroachment impacts flows, and if you lose that riparian area, you lose the most important wildlife in the area.’ Thinning our dead, dying and overgrown forests is as much of a wildfire prevention issue as it is a conservation issue.” [Daily Inter Lake, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The “Alliance For The Wild Rockies Launched More Than 150 Predatory Lawsuits Targeting Legal And Healthy Forest Projects In Just The Last Ten Years Alone.”**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote: “Frivolous lawsuits are at the heart of forest reform. The Alliance for the Wild Rockies launched more than 150 predatory lawsuits targeting legal and healthy forest projects in just the last ten years alone. During one such project they litigated on the grounds of preserving spotted owl habitat, the forest actually caught fire and burned down for a second time during the time it took to try the case, destroying the entire area, along with the owl’s habitat.” [Daily Inter Lake, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/3/15](#)]

**Zinke: “My Approach Is Far More Pragmatic Than The Previous Stalled Bills And Has Even Earned The Support Of Dozens Of Democrats In The House.”**

In September 2015, Zinke wrote: “Opponents of the bill also wrongly assume the bill is unpalatable in the Senate because there is not a wilderness component. However, as the Hungry Horse News noted last week, previous attempts to attach a wilderness bill to any kind of forest management have ‘languished’ in Congress, not even gaining support in a single chamber, let alone through the House and the Senate. My approach is far more pragmatic than the previous stalled bills and has even earned the support of dozens of Democrats in the House. Montana is burning while some in the Senate sit on their hands and lament over process. But now, for the first time in over a decade, the Senate has the opportunity to act. I urge leaders in the Senate to talk to their colleagues in western states about the dangers wildfires pose, and act with expediency to pass the Resilient Federal Forest Act.” [Daily Inter Lake, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [9/3/15](#)]

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**Zinke On Fire In Glacier National Park: “It Breaks My Heart Cause A Lot Of These Areas As A Kid I Grew Up And Hiked Through In The Park. A Loss Of This Is A Loss Generationally. It Will Recover Over Time But Certainly Not In My Generation. My Children Won’t See The Same Park As I Saw.”**

“Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke visited with fire information officials in Coram on Friday and spent time talking about resources, weather conditions and strategy. [...] The native Montanan said the air quality in the Flathead Valley right now is something comparable to the Mount St Helens volcanic eruption in the early 1980’s and says the landscape will not be quite the same anymore. ‘It breaks my heart cause a lot of these areas as a kid I grew up and hiked through in the park. A loss of this is a loss generationally. It will recover over time but certainly not in my generation. My children won’t see the same park as I saw,’ Zinke concluded.” [KPAX, [8/29/15](#)]

**Zinke Said Montana’s Multiple Wildfires Were “Completely Avoidable” If His Forest Restoration Act Passed**

“The day after a fast-growing fire forced the evacuation of Essex residents from their homes, Montana’s lone congressman on Friday visited the fire team’s camp at the West Glacier koa. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., who is from Whitefish, connected Northwest Montana’s multiple wildfires to his bill that would aim to increase harvest and fuel treatment on federal forests. ‘This is completely avoidable,’ said Zinke, gesturing to the thick haze that has enveloped the region for the past week.” [Daily Inter Lake, [8/28/15](#)]

**Zinke Claimed Montana Was “The Leading State In [Timber] Lawsuits.”**

“The day after a fast-growing fire forced the evacuation of Essex residents from their homes, Montana’s lone congressman on Friday visited the fire team’s camp at the West Glacier koa. [...] One of the more controversial measures in the bill also requires any group or individual suing the Forest Service over a project to post a bond equal to the amount that it would cost the agency to defend it, unless that group participated in a collaborative group to develop the project. ‘While Montana is the leading state in collaborative efforts, we’re also the leading state in lawsuits,’ he said. He pointed to the 2003 Robert Fire as an example of an areas where the Forest Service avoided salvage harvest for fear of litigation from conservation groups. A portion of the Robert Fire burned again in the 100-acre Glacier Rim Fire earlier this summer.” [Daily Inter Lake, [8/28/15](#)]

**Daily Inter Lake: “[Zinke] Pointed To The 2003 Robert Fire As An Example Of An Areas Where The Forest Service Avoided Salvage Harvest For Fear Of Litigation From Conservation Groups.”**

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**Daily Inter Lake: “Zinke Also Said He Would Be Open To Amendments That Include Wilderness Designations As Long As They Don’t Strip Out The Legislation’s Intent.”**

“The day after a fast-growing fire forced the evacuation of Essex residents from their homes, Montana’s lone congressman on Friday visited the fire team’s camp at the West Glacier koa. [...] He noted that a number of conservation groups have pushed back, arguing that the bill should be balanced out with new wilderness designations. Zinke also said he would be open to amendments that include wilderness designations as long as they don’t strip out the legislation’s intent. ‘This is not a wilderness bill. A wilderness bill won’t solve this,’ he said. ‘But I’ll work with anybody as long as we can fix this.’ However, he also suggested that future wilderness designations should allow limited treatment of timber to manage for what he called ‘catastrophic wildfires.’ ‘I think they need to evaluate whether it’s in the best interest of the wilderness, whether we can take a more active role or just let it burn to the ground.’ He added that low-impact mechanical tools for trail clearing could be allowed, along with leaving the areas open to bicycle use. Per the 1964 Wilderness Act, mechanical equipment such as bicycles and chain saws are prohibited in Congressionally designated wilderness areas.” [Daily Inter Lake, [8/28/15](#)]

**Zinke: “This Is Not A Wilderness Bill. A Wilderness Bill Won’t Solve This.”**

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**Zinke Claimed Montana Was “71 Million Acres Behind In Harvesting Dead And Dying Timber That Is Adding Fuel To The Dangerous Wildfires.”**

“In August 2015, Zinke said: “Montana is 71 million acres behind in harvesting dead and dying timber that is adding fuel to the dangerous wildfires spreading across our state, according to the U.S.F.S. My bill, the Resilient Federal Forest Act of 2015 would help the Forest Service clean up our forests, help restore them to good health, and most importantly, help prevent future catastrophic wildfires that threaten our homes, lives of firefighters, and precious lands.” [Ryan Zinke, Campaign Facebook, [8/31/15](#)]

**Zinke On Timber Reform: “I Want To Make Sure Our Forests Return To Health. We Need To Remove The Dead And Dying Timber So We Don’t Have This Every Single Season.”**

“Fire season has been tough on many people around the treasure state after losing thousands of acres of land. Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced a bill known as the Resilient Federal Forest Service Act in order to restore the health of Montana’s forests. The bill looks at funding and realigns the FEMA funding so the Forest Service can have more money where it needs it. According to Zinke, the money needs to go towards land management ‘But I want to make sure our forests return to health. We need to remove the dead and dying timber so we don’t have this every single season,’ said Congressman Ryan Zinke. The U.S. Forest Service says Montana is 71 million acres behind in cleaning up dead and dying timber. With the bill, Zinke plans to have more sustainable timber harvests and says that it is up to us to fix the problem. ‘The reason we have the fires we do and the hot fires that are sterilizing; it’s our fault,’ added Zinke. The bill has bi-partisan support in the house and now moves into the Senate.” [KTVH, [8/28/15](#)]

**Zinke Said Current Timber Policy Was “The Reason We Have The Fires We Do And The Hot Fires That Are Sterilizing; It’s Our Fault.”**

“Fire season has been tough on many people around the treasure state after losing thousands of acres of land. Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced a bill known as the Resilient Federal Forest Service Act in order to restore the health of Montana’s forests. The bill looks at funding and realigns the FEMA funding so the Forest Service can have more money where it needs it. According to Zinke, the money needs to go towards land management ‘But I want to make sure our forests return to health. We need to remove the dead and dying timber so we don’t have this every single season,’ said Congressman Ryan Zinke. The U.S. Forest Service says Montana is 71 million acres behind in cleaning up dead and dying timber. With the bill, Zinke plans to have

more sustainable timber harvests and says that it is up to us to fix the problem. 'The reason we have the fires we do and the hot fires that are sterilizing; it's our fault,' added Zinke. The bill has bi-partisan support in the house and now moves into the Senate." [KTVH, [8/28/15](#)]

**Zinke: "Unfortunately, [Montana] Also Lead In Projects That Are Under Litigation Because Certain Groups Have No Interest In Playing By The Rules Or Respecting The Agreements We Reach With Each Other."**

In June 2015, Zinke wrote: "Last Congress, a collaborative process was established that brought local stakeholders and the U.S. Forest Service together to create plans for timber harvest. This idea blossomed in Montana because we work together and play by the rules – it's just part of our core values. We lead the nation in collaborative projects; unfortunately, we also lead in projects that are under litigation because certain groups have no interest in playing by the rules or respecting the agreements we reach with each other. If they see a plan that's good for Montana, but not in line with their agenda, they litigate it. Then just like that, a project that took hundreds of hours of planning and working together is delayed, if not dead on arrival." [Missoulian, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [6/4/15](#)]

**Zinke: "Montana's Timber Industry Is Under A Continual Assault By Excessive And Predatory Lawsuits."**

"Currently, Montana's timber industry is under a continual assault by excessive and predatory lawsuits. This delays projects and costs local communities and taxpayers millions of dollars and hundreds of jobs. A recent study by the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research found local communities bear the brunt of litigation of Forest Service timber sales. Costs for the Spotted Bear River litigation alone are estimated at around 130 lost jobs and \$10 million in income and revenue." [Missoulian, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [6/4/15](#)]

**Zinke Introduce A Bill That "Would Implement Reforms To Tackle Litigation And Wildfire Concerns—Two Of The Biggest Barriers To Unleashing Montana's Timber Potential."**

In June 2015, Zinke wrote: "This trend does not have to continue though. It is fixable. Yesterday I introduced the National Forest Collaborative Incentive Act of 2015. This bill would implement reforms to tackle litigation and wildfire concerns—two of the biggest barriers to unleashing Montana's timber potential. The bill includes key reforms to: 1. Prevent catastrophic wildfires; 2. Incentivize collaborative agreements; 3. Allow for new funding sources for Forest Service projects; and, 4. Require the USFS to reinvest in forest management." [Missoulian, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [6/4/15](#)]

**Zinke Said His Bill Would "Curb Lawsuits By Addressing Both Sides Of The Issue" And Incentivizing Collaboration**

In June 2015, Zinke wrote: "My bill will curb lawsuits by addressing both sides of the issue: first, by incentivizing locally driven collaborative projects, and then by requiring litigants to put forth bond money up front to cover the administrative costs of their lawsuit. Earlier this year, Thomas Tidwell, chief of the USFS, testified before Congress that this type of litigation impacts the ability of the agency to complete forest thinning projects. The bill adds incentives for collaborations by offering a streamlined process for environmental reviews and limiting the decision-making process to "action" versus "no action." For example, a collaborative considering a Forest Service project would eliminate the need for the USFS to spend time and resources reviewing other alternative projects that would never be implemented. Every Montanan knows the dire threat of the upcoming wildfire season. These collaborative projects would immediately reduce that threat by cutting the bureaucratic red tape that delays preventative projects." [Missoulian, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [6/4/15](#)]

**Zinke Said His Bill Was "Bipartisan" And Could Be Implemented Immediately By The Forest Service**

In June 2015, Zinke wrote: "These ideas are bipartisan and backed by the Wild Turkey Foundation, the Montana Loggers Association, local governments, former USFS Chief Dale Bosworth and others. And one of the most attractive aspects of this reform package is these reforms could be implemented immediately by the

Forest Service, requiring no new planning, mapping, rulemaking or regulations. The National Forest Collaborative Incentive Act simplifies environmental process requirements, but doesn't ease them, reduces project planning times and reduces the cost of implementing forest management projects while still ensuring robust protection of our natural environment." [Missouliau, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said His Bill Would "Discourage Out-Of-State Special Interests From Waging War On Montana Forestry Communities."**

In June 2015, Zinke wrote: "Timber harvests in our state have dropped 80 percent over the past 25 years, and our annual output has still not rebounded to pre-recession levels, despite heightened demand and soaring wood products prices. By implementing common sense reforms to encourage collaboration and discourage out-of-state special interests from waging war on Montana forestry communities, I am confident Montana can rebuild our timber industry and conserve our forests for generations to come." [Missouliau, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "Due To Predatory Lawsuits Funded By Out-Of-State Special-Interest Groups, Federal Regulatory Constraints And Intensifying Wildfires, The Available Supply Of Harvestable Timber Is Actually Far Lower."**

In June 2015, Zinke wrote: "In Montana, our land is our way of life: its beauty and bounty provide us with world-class recreation, hunting, fishing, natural resources and economic activity. However, too often outside forces and special interests get in the way of us conserving our land, developing our resources and growing our communities. We have 22 million acres of forest with 13 million available for timber harvesting. Despite this, the U.S. imported \$14 billion in wood products in 2013. Montana has the potential to help meet the demand while our economy recovers from the worst housing recession in generations; however, due to predatory lawsuits funded by out-of-state special-interest groups, federal regulatory constraints and intensifying wildfires, the available supply of harvestable timber is actually far lower." [Missouliau, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "Building A Strong Tourism Industry And Strong Timber Industry Are Not Mutually Exclusive."**

In June 2015, Zinke wrote: "As a fifth-generation Montanan, I grew up in a timber and tourism community right off Highway 2. Our mills were bustling, the trains were hustling, and visitors from around the world flocked to Glacier National Park. Montana knows how to create a system that works for everyone because everyone works together. Revenues from the timber industry were reinvested in the community and the conservation efforts of the forest helped our timber harvests. Building a strong tourism industry and strong timber industry are not mutually exclusive." [Missouliau, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Highlighted Committee Passage Of His Forest Reform Bill As Part Of A Broader Forestry Bill**

"Today the House Committee on Natural Resources voted in favor of Congressman Ryan Zinke's forest reform legislation as part of a broader forestry bill, HR 2647 'The Resilient National Forests Act of 2015.' Zinke introduced H.R. 2644, The National Forest Collaborative Incentive Act of 2015 late in the afternoon of Wednesday June 3rd in a Natural Resources Committee hearing. The following afternoon, Rep. Bruce Westerman (Ark) re-introduced the Congressman's bill as part of his larger forestry package. The larger bill is the collaboration of Reps. Zinke, Westerman, and McClintock (CA), and features Democratic co-sponsor Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ). [...] Rep. Zinke said: 'Finally, real timber reform for Montana is within reach. Rural timber communities have seen their economies decimated in recent years largely due to frivolous litigation on timber sales; but thanks to these reforms, all that could change. Working together we were able to craft comprehensive legislation that encourages collaboration and addresses the most pressing issues facing our forests, wild fires and litigation, while also strengthening conservation and rehabilitation efforts. I look forward to the upcoming vote on the House floor and am hopeful for bipartisan support in the Senate.'" [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [6/11/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Finally, Real Timber Reform For Montana Is Within Reach. Rural Timber Communities Have Seen Their Economies Decimated In Recent Years Largely Due To Frivolous Litigation On Timber Sales.”**

“Today the House Committee on Natural Resources voted in favor of Congressman Ryan Zinke’s forest reform legislation as part of a broader forestry bill, HR 2647 ‘The Resilient National Forests Act of 2015.’ Zinke introduced H.R. 2644, The National Forest Collaborative Incentive Act of 2015 late in the afternoon of Wednesday June 3rd in a Natural Resources Committee hearing. The following afternoon, Rep. Bruce Westerman (Ark) re-introduced the Congressman’s bill as part of his larger forestry package. The larger bill is the collaboration of Reps. Zinke, Westerman, and McClintock (CA), and features Democratic co-sponsor Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ). [...] Rep. Zinke said: ‘Finally, real timber reform for Montana is within reach. Rural timber communities have seen their economies decimated in recent years largely due to frivolous litigation on timber sales; but thanks to these reforms, all that could change. Working together we were able to craft comprehensive legislation that encourages collaboration and addresses the most pressing issues facing our forests, wild fires and litigation, while also strengthening conservation and rehabilitation efforts. I look forward to the upcoming vote on the House floor and am hopeful for bipartisan support in the Senate.’ [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [6/11/15](#)]

**Zinke Said The Resilient Federal Forests Act Did Not Avoid Federal Or State Environmental Law And Encouraged An Open Timber Planning Process**

“A bill to expedite forest management activities on federal forests continues to pick up steam in Congress. The ‘Resilient Federal Forests Act’ passed out of the House Agriculture committee Wednesday. Supporters say it’s needed to improve the health of the nation’s overgrown and fire-prone federal forests. But it’s also raising eyebrows among some environmental groups. [...] Bill co-sponsor, Republican Congressman Ryan Zinke, says it doesn’t skirt one federal or state environmental law and encourages an open timber planning process.” [Montana Public Radio, [6/17/15](#)]

**Zinke Said The Glacier Rim Fire Was In An Area That “Should Have Been Salvaged” By The Timber Industry**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke paid a visit to the Hungry Horse Ranger Station on Monday to get a first hand look at the Glacier Rim Fire north of Columbia Falls. [...] Zinke will be proposing new legislation soon in which he hopes will enable the forest service and other agencies to manage dead and dying timber better which was a major problem on this fire. ‘This is what happens when you don’t salvage projects for timber. They’re fighting right now in an area that probably should have been salvaged but wasn’t. And this is not the isolated case, this is across Montana.’ The Glacier Rim fire remains at 25 percent contained.” [KPAX, [6/30/15](#)]

**Zinke Timber Reform Passed The House Of Representatives**

“Today the House of Representatives passed the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015 (HR 2647), which includes important forest reforms introduced by Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke to encourage local collaboration on timber projects, curb frivolous lawsuits, and prevent catastrophic wildfires. The House voted in favor of the reforms with several Democrats joining the majority of Republicans to support the measure. More than 170 national labor, Native American, conservation, local government, sportsman’s, and timber groups submitted comments in support of the law including the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Montana Wood Products Association, Montana Association of Counties, Montana Loggers, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and former Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth and Seeley Lake Ranger Tim Love.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/9/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I Look Forward To Working With Both Senators Daines And Tester To Advance These Important Reforms Through Congress And To The President’s Desk.”**

“Today is a good day; after more than a decade of inaction, real forestry reform for Montana is within reach,” said Rep. Zinke. “After talking with folks from every side of the issue – conservation, Forest Service, loggers, scientists, local governments, outdoor recreation representatives, etc. – it became clear that incentivizing and

rewarding the collaborative process, where local groups work together for a timber project, is the best path forward because it puts Montana in the driver's seat, not the out-of-state special interests. Responsible timber harvesting is good for the economy and helps prevent catastrophic wildfires. This reform package will mitigate and prevent future catastrophic fires by expediting salvage and thinning projects. As we have already seen at Glacier Rim, this fire season is going to be very active and has the potential to hundreds of thousands of acres of our cherished forests. I am thankful to my colleagues in the House for their support and happy to have a steadfast advocate for our forests in Senator Daines as my partner. I look forward to working with both Senators Daines and Tester to advance these important reforms through Congress and to the President's desk." [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke On Glacier Rim Fire: "It's Burning The Same Ground That Burned In 2003. I Was Told By People On The Ground That The Reason Why This Fire Is Burning Is The Forest Service Was Not Able To Conduct A Salvage Operation For Fear Of Lawsuits."**

"The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday passed the Resilient Federal Forests Act, a bill to expedite management activities on federal forests that supporters – including the measure's co-sponsor, Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana – say are needed to improve the health of the nation's overgrown and fire-prone federal forests. [...] At one point, Zinke cited a recent tour of the Glacier Rim fire burning along the North Fork Flathead River, an area that previously burned in 2003. He said the recent fire is evidence of poor forest management, and that the Forest Service was hamstrung by the specter of litigation. 'It's burning the same ground that burned in 2003. I was told by people on the ground that the reason why this fire is burning is the Forest Service was not able to conduct a salvage operation for fear of lawsuits among other reasons, and those lawsuits left standing timber which cannot be addressed by crews, which only can be addressed by helicopters, and that's a million dollar project,' he said. 'We need more scientists in the woods and less lawyers.'" [Flathead Beacon, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Was "Fairly Optimistic" His Forest Reform Legislation Would Become Law**

"Montana's delegation in Washington is focusing on helping forests, roads, Indian tribes and other issues important to the state while working to overcome the political gridlock that makes it difficult to get things done on Capitol Hill. [...] Zinke said his biggest accomplishment during his first term in the House is proposing a bill that would improve conservation efforts, reduce litigation and encourage collaboration from local groups on timber projects. His reforms were included in legislation passed by the House last week. They must still be approved by the Senate. Montana has more than 27 million acres overseen by four federal government agencies including the Forest Service, or about 30 percent of the state. 'Our forests are burning down. We've lost our ability to restore forests to health,' Zinke said. 'Forests are a big deal in western Montana. I'm fairly optimistic that it will become law.'" [Great Falls Tribune, [7/11/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Fires Burning In Montana Were Due "Decades Of Poor Management Of Our Federal Forests."**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: "Right now there are nine active wildfires in Montana, burning thousands of acres of our cherished national parks, forests and grasslands. Hundreds of thousands of acres in California are burning too. This is in part because of the dry and hot weather we've had, but even more so due to decades of poor management of our federal forests. The evidence? One need look no farther than one of the first fires of the season, the Glacier Rim fire, which quickly burned about 100 acres of dead timber and thick regrowth brush in the same area of the 2003 Roberts fire." [Helena Independent Record, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Authored The "Resilient Federal Forests Act Of 2015 To Help End The Catastrophic Wildfires That Plague Montana And Other Western States."**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: "This is not a new problem. Montana has been a tinderbox for a long time. Rather than sit idly by as our forests go up in smoke, I took action. Earlier this summer, I co-authored the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015 to help end the catastrophic wildfires that plague Montana and other western states.

This is not a wilderness bill; this is a forest reform bill. A wilderness bill will not prevent wildfires, nor will it put them out.” [Helena Independent Record, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/12/15](#)]

**Zinke: “A Wilderness Bill Will Not Prevent Wildfires, Nor Will It Put Them Out.”**

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**Zinke Said His Forest Reform Legislation Would “Bolster Wildfire Prevention” By Encouraging Collaboration On Timber Projects, Expediting Timber Projects And Dissuading “Frivolous” Lawsuits**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: “This bill was the result of both my own experience living in western Montana and also years of Congressional hearings, investigations, reports and public debate. It will bolster wildfire prevention by waging a proactive assault from multiple angles: First it will incentivize local collaboration on timber projects, second streamline bureaucratic process to expedite thinning and salvage projects, and third dissuade frivolous litigation that grinds forest management to a halt. It also solves the wildfire “borrowing problem” by allowing the USFS to use funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fight fires.” [Helena Independent Record, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/12/15](#)]

**Zinke Said His Forest Reform Legislation “Gives Everyone A Seat At The Table” And Groups That Opposed The Bill Had Less Of A “Teamwork Mentality.”**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: “More than 170 sportsmen, tribal, conservation, local government and industry groups, as well as retired forest rangers, have endorsed the legislation because it’s common sense solutions that can be implemented on day one. However, some outlying environmental groups contest the bill because they claim it doesn’t give them enough say in projects. That is simply not true. The sections of the bill I authored emphasize and encourage local collaboration. This bill gives everyone a seat at the negotiating table. The only groups who will not have a say are the groups who choose not to participate. As a military officer I know the importance of teamwork, and the more locals are involved, the better the project will be in the end. However, these outlying groups often choose not to participate and have less of a teamwork mentality and more of a mindset of ‘I’m going to take my ball and go home.’ Unfortunately that translates to launching a lawsuit to cancel a project completely.” [Helena Independent Record, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/12/15](#)]

**Zinke: “One Of The Most Vocal Opponents To The Resilient Federal Forests Act, The Alliance For The Wild Rockies, Recently Filed Suit Against The Forest Service For The Forest Stewardship Program, A Project To Harvest Beetle-Killed Timber In The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.”**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: “One of the most vocal opponents to the Resilient Federal Forests Act, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, recently filed suit against the Forest Service for the Forest Stewardship Program, a project to harvest beetle-killed timber in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The litigants claim thinning is bad for the environment; however several environmental impact studies prove otherwise. The Forest Stewardship Program is nine years in the works. It is by all means a collaborative effort aimed at thinning areas the USFS, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, county commissioners and Trout Unlimited say is unnatural and negatively impacting the watershed, and thus wildlife. As the Watershed Restoration Council noted, ‘conifer encroachment impacts flows, and if you lose that riparian area, you lose the most important wildlife in the area.’ Thinning our dead, dying and overgrown forests is as much of a wildfire prevention issue as it is a conservation issue.” [Helena Independent Record, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/12/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Frivolous Lawsuits Are At The Heart Of Forest Reform. The Alliance For The Wild Rockies Launched More Than 150 Predatory Lawsuits Targeting Legal And Healthy Forest Projects In Just The Last 10 Years Alone.”**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: “Frivolous lawsuits are at the heart of forest reform. The Alliance for the Wild Rockies launched more than 150 predatory lawsuits targeting legal and healthy forest projects in just the last 10 years alone. During one such project they litigated on the grounds of preserving spotted owl habitat, the forest actually caught fire and burned down for a second time during the time it took to try the case, destroying the entire area, along with the owl’s habitat. Opponents of the bill also wrongly assume the bill is unpalatable in the Senate because there is not a wilderness component. However, as the Hungry Horse News noted last week, previous attempts to attach a wilderness bill to any kind of forest management have ‘languished’ in Congress, not even gaining support in a single chamber, let alone through the House and the Senate. My approach is far more pragmatic than the previous stalled bills and has even earned the support of dozens of Democrats in the House.” [Helena Independent Record, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/12/15](#)]

**Zinke: “During One Such Project They Litigated On The Grounds Of Preserving Spotted Owl Habitat, The Forest Actually Caught Fire And Burned Down For A Second Time During The Time It Took To Try The Case.”**

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**Zinke: “Opponents Of The Bill Also Wrongly Assume The Bill Is Unpalatable In The Senate Because There Is Not A Wilderness Component.”**

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previous attempts to attach a wilderness bill to any kind of forest management have ‘languished’ in Congress, not even gaining support in a single chamber, let alone through the House and the Senate. My approach is far more pragmatic than the previous stalled bills and has even earned the support of dozens of Democrats in the House.” [Helena Independent Record, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said His Forest Reform Legislation Was More “Pragmatic” Than Wilderness Bills That Stalled In The Senate**

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### **Zinke: “Montana Is Burning While Some In The Senate Sit On Their Hands And Lament Over Process.”**

In August 2015, Zinke wrote: “Montana is burning while some in the Senate sit on their hands and lament over process. But now, for the first time in over a decade, the Senate has the opportunity to act. I urge leaders in the Senate to talk to their colleagues in western states about the dangers wildfires pose, and act with expediency to pass the Resilient Federal Forest Act.” [Helena Independent Record, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [8/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Glacier Rim Fire Was In An Area That “Should Have Been Salvaged” By The Timber Industry**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke paid a visit to the Hungry Horse Ranger Station on Monday to get a first hand look at the Glacier Rim Fire north of Columbia Falls. [...] Zinke will be proposing new legislation soon in which he hopes will enable the forest service and other agencies to manage dead and dying timber better which was a major problem on this fire. ‘This is what happens when you don’t salvage projects for timber. They’re fighting right now in an area that probably should have been salvaged but wasn’t. And this is not the isolated case, this is across Montana.’ The Glacier Rim fire remains at 25 percent contained.” [KPAX, [6/30/15](#)]

### **John Todd, Scott Brennan, Melynda Harrison, Robyn King And Mack And Connie Long Wrote An Opinion Piece Criticizing Zinke’s Forest Reform**

“Montanans love our national forests. They are the source of our clean water, the places we camp, fish and hunt, and a storehouse of natural resources, including renewable resources such as timber. We owe it to each other, and owe it to the future, to make sure our national forests are well managed. Recently, Montana’s Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. In January, over 40 Montana timber representatives, conservation organizations, sportsmen, outfitters, and businesses wrote to Montana’s congressional delegation with a very clear message: work together to improve management of our forests. Listen to Montanans, and honor the hard work of Montana citizens in collaborating to improve forest management.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

### **Montana Conservation Partners Guest Column: “Strike One On Rep. Zinke’s Bill Is That It Was Crafted Without Input From Montanans.”**

“Recently, Montana’s Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. [...] Strike one on Rep. Zinke’s bill is that it was crafted without input from Montanans. No listening sessions.

No town halls. But more importantly, no support from the key Montana stakeholders who worked for decades to improve forest management? Strike one.” [Bozman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**Montana Conservation Partners Guest Column: “Strike Two Is That While Rep. Zinke Says His Legislation Is About Supporting Collaborative Efforts In Montana—Which Is A Noble Goal—The Bill Actually Does The Opposite.”**

“Recently, Montana’s Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. [...] Strike two is that while Rep. Zinke says his legislation is about supporting collaborative efforts in Montana—which is a noble goal—the bill actually does the opposite. The congressman’s bill re-writes the rules governing how decisions are made among diverse stakeholders on Montana’s resource advisory councils. Don’t like input from key stakeholders? No problem, just vote them down. That is not collaboration. Strike two.” [Bozman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**Montana Conservation Partners Guest Column: “Strike Three Is That Rep. Zinke’s Bill Lacks Balance And Fails To Address The Needs Of Multiple Interests.”**

“Recently, Montana’s Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. [...] Strike three is that Rep. Zinke’s bill lacks balance and fails to address the needs of multiple interests. A key premise of collaboration in Montana is to advance areas of agreement in ways that benefit all stakeholders. Strike three.” [Bozman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**Montana Conservation Partners Guest Column: “[Zinke Forest Reform] Strips Money From Restoration, While Creating Hurdles To Public Input In Decision-Making.”**

“Recently, Montana’s Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. [...] The diverse groups that wrote to Montana’s congressional delegation in January urged an approach that balances conservation and restoration. But Rep. Zinke’s bill does nothing for either. Instead, it strips money from restoration, while creating hurdles to public input in decision-making. It’s an approach that picks winners and losers and will not bring Montanans together.” [Bozman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**Montana Conservation Partners Guest Column: “[Zinke Forest Reform] Picks Winners And Losers And Will Not Bring Montanans Together.”**

“Recently, Montana’s Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. [...] The diverse groups that wrote to Montana’s congressional delegation in January urged an approach that balances conservation and restoration. But Rep. Zinke’s bill does nothing for either. Instead, it strips money from restoration, while creating hurdles to public input in decision-making. It’s an approach that picks winners and losers and will not bring Montanans together.” [Bozman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**Zinke Said His Forest Reform Would Help Lincoln County Harvest Timber Because It Required Litigants Opposed To Forest Service Sale Of Land To Post Cash Bonds With Lawsuits**

“During an hour-long town hall meeting with U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke on July 1, Eureka residents learned about what keeps Montana’s sole congressman up at night – Iran with nuclear weapon capabilities – and that his main legislative focus right now is moving his forest bill forward. Zinke, a Republican from Whitefish in his first term, met with about two-dozen residents on Wednesday morning as part of a tour through Montana to discuss his forest bill and to discuss other challenges, ranging from federal issues to local concerns. [...] Zinke said his bill could help free up some of the federal lands in Lincoln County for harvest, because it would require litigants who challenge U.S. Forest Service sales to post cash bonds along with the lawsuits, thereby preventing unnecessary lawsuits from halting timber projects.” [Flathead Beacon, [7/1/15](#)]

## **Opponents Of The Bill Said The Bill Would Cancel Out The Checks And Balances Congress Has Already Built Into Land Management Decisions**

“During an hour-long town hall meeting with U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke on July 1, Eureka residents learned about what keeps Montana’s sole congressman up at night – Iran with nuclear weapon capabilities – and that his main legislative focus right now is moving his forest bill forward. [...] Opponents to Zinke’s bill, including environmental group Alliance for the Wild Rockies, say the bill would cancel out the checks and balances Congress has already built into land management decisions.” [Flathead Beacon, [7/1/15](#)]

## **Zinke Said Forest Service Policy Is To Blame For The Glacier Rim Fire, Because The Agency Fears Lawsuits**

“During an hour-long town hall meeting with U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke on July 1, Eureka residents learned about what keeps Montana’s sole congressman up at night – Iran with nuclear weapon capabilities – and that his main legislative focus right now is moving his forest bill forward. [...] Zinke also said the bill could help the Forest Service get back to creating policy to better maintain the forests instead of crafting it to avoid litigation. After a visit to the Glacier Rim fire, which has burned more than 80 acres in the North Fork in an old-burn patch from 2003, Zinke said the agency’s policies have left timber stands unhealthy and overgrown for fear of lawsuits. ‘What’s burning is the standing timber that was not allowed to be salvaged,’ Zinke said of the Glacier Rim fire. ‘Forest Service policy is part of why it’s burning.’ [Flathead Beacon, [7/1/15](#)]

## **Zinke Opposed Adding More Wilderness Area To Montana Because Current Wilderness Needs Better Care And Access**

“During an hour-long town hall meeting with U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke on July 1, Eureka residents learned about what keeps Montana’s sole congressman up at night – Iran with nuclear weapon capabilities – and that his main legislative focus right now is moving his forest bill forward. [...] He also voiced his opposition to adding more Wilderness area to Montana, saying the existing Wilderness needs better care and access.” [Flathead Beacon, [7/1/15](#)]

## **Zinke Was On Newstalk Radio And Discussed His Forest Reform And The Recent Supreme Court Rulings.**

[YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [7/2/15](#)] (AUDIO)

## **Zinke Was On Voices Of Montana And Discussed His Forest Reform, And VA Montana Flying A Pride Flag, Said The VA Shouldn’t Be Political.**

[00:04:48] [Northern Broadcasting, Voices of Montana, [6/10/15](#)] (AUDIO)

## **Zinke Said The Forest Service Spends Most Of Their Money On Wildfires, Then Litigation**

In June 2015, Zinke tweeted: “The @forestsERVICE spends most of their \$\$ on wildfires. Second is frivolous litigation. My #forestreform will curb that #mtpol @aaronflint.” [Twitter, @RepRyanZinke, [6/10/15](#)]

## **Zinke On Garrity Comments: “Trying To Relate The Civil Liberties Of Mississippi To Our Forests In Montana? That’s Inappropriate And That’s Exactly The Problem.”**

“Montana’s congressional delegation agrees on at least one issue; too many of our timber stands are sickly, overgrown, and fire-prone. Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines, and Congressman Ryan Zinke say it’s time to reform how we manage our National Forests. Michael Garrity of the Helena-based environmental group, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, doesn’t trust any of them to lead that charge. ‘During the civil rights era we didn’t let the Mississippi congressional delegation try to solve civil rights problems. I don’t think our country is going to let the Montana congressional delegation try to solve environmental problems on our national forests,’ says Garrity. Republican Ryan Zinke says Garrity’s comment is out of line. ‘Trying to relate the civil liberties of Mississippi to our forests in Montana? That’s inappropriate and that’s exactly the problem.’ [Montana Public Radio, [6/8/15](#)]

**Garrity On Forest Reform: “During The Civil Rights Era We Didn’t Let The Mississippi Congressional Delegation Try To Solve Civil Rights Problems. I Don’t Think Our Country Is Going To Let The Montana Congressional Delegation Try To Solve Environmental Problems On Our National Forests.”**

“Montana’s congressional delegation agrees on at least one issue; too many of our timber stands are sickly, overgrown, and fire-prone. Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines, and Congressman Ryan Zinke say it’s time to reform how we manage our National Forests. Michael Garrity of the Helena-based environmental group, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, doesn’t trust any of them to lead that charge. ‘During the civil rights era we didn’t let the Mississippi congressional delegation try to solve civil rights problems. I don’t think our country is going to let the Montana congressional delegation try to solve environmental problems on our national forests,’ says Garrity. Republican Ryan Zinke says Garrity’s comment is out of line. ‘Trying to relate the civil liberties of Mississippi to our forests in Montana? That’s inappropriate and that’s exactly the problem.’ [Montana Public Radio, [6/8/15](#)]

**Zinke Said His Forest Reform “Doesn’t Stop Litigation” It Would Require Groups To Post Bond To Cover “The Forest Service’s Expense.”**

“Montana’s congressional delegation agrees on at least one issue; too many of our timber stands are sickly, overgrown, and fire-prone. [...] The Alliance for the Wild Rockies has turned to the courts many times to stop logging projects it deems illegal. Executive director Mike Garrity says Zinke’s bonding provision would have a profound impact on his group. ‘We’re not a big, rich environmental group, so it would mean we could no longer challenge illegal federal government (timber) decisions, Garrity says. Congressman Zinke says bonding would prevent groups that weren’t part of any collaborative process from intentionally bogging-down projects in the court system. He describes the provision as ‘rewarding good behavior.’ ‘It doesn’t stop litigation,’ Zinke says. ‘They’re free to litigate, but they have to post a bond and it only covers the Forest Service’s expense. If they sue, they don’t have the right to have the government pay for it.’ [Montana Public Radio, [6/8/15](#)]

**Zinke On Forest Management Reform: “The Amount Of Timber, Dead And Dying Timber And The Fuel Load, Is Excessive. We Need To Get More Scientists And Fewer Lawyers Back In Our Woods.”**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke says federal forests don’t have a fire problem as much as they have a land management problem. Zinke, Montana’s lone Representative in the U.S. House, introduced a forest management reform bill this week. Its provisions include a streamlined environmental review process and mandated bonding for people who sue to stop collaborative forest management projects. Zinke says our national forests are sick and it’s time to re-think how we manage them. ‘The amount of timber, dead and dying timber and the fuel load, is excessive. We need to get more scientists and fewer lawyers back in our woods.’ Some environmentalists say Zinke’s proposal squashes their right to challenge poorly-planned government timber sales. The Congressman says it doesn’t. ‘But it does reward and incentivize everyone to participate in the process rather than refuse to participate and then sue at the end.’ We’ll have more on Zinke’s bill next week.” [Montana Public Radio, [6/5/15](#)]

**Zinke On Forest Reform: “It Does Reward And Incentivize Everyone To Participate In The Process Rather Than Refuse To Participate And Then Sue At The End.”**

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### **Flathead Beacon: Conservation Activists Said Zinke's Resilient Federal Forests Act Was A Top-Down Approach That Didn't Recognize Montana's Diverse Interests**

“It’s late August in Montana and the North Fork of the Flathead River is running low and slow, snaking through a chalky corridor of wildfire smoke, its steep banks inscribed with the tracks of deer and grizzly bears, wallpapered with a mix of blackened snags and young lodgepole pine, and scored with clusters of radiant fireweed. [...] Conservation advocates in Montana say they’d like to see more of the collaboration-driven efforts that propelled the North Fork and Rocky Mountain Front measures through Congress, and less of the ‘top-down’ approaches that don’t recognize Montana’s diverse interests, like Zinke’s Resilient Federal Forests Act.” [Flathead Beacon, [10/21/15](#)]

### **Critics Of The Resilient Federal Forests Act Of 2015 Claim That A Provision Placing Restrictions On Lawsuits Raised “Serious Constitutional Concerns.”**

“While praising many aspects of the bill, including the bill’s emphasis of preventative fire maintenance, Representative Nikki Tsongas, a Democrat from Massachusetts, said it also obstructs the rights of citizens seeking to legally challenge U.S. Forestry practices. ‘The changes to the Judicial review process raise serious constitutional concerns, eroding some of the bedrock principles of the American legal system that protect the basic rights of citizens to participate in federal decision-making process and hold their government accountable,’ she said. Many of the bills detractors say provisions requiring that citizens or entities filing suit over Forestry Service practices have to post a bond to cover the agency’s legal expenses. In addition, opponents call out a measure that would eliminate a federal courts option of issuing preliminary injunction or temporary restraining order on a project. Supporters of the bill say frivolous lawsuits have held up many forestry management projects, leading to an increase in wildfires and forest disease.” [UALR Public Radio, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Wild Earth Guardian Said Zinke Was Attempting To Use “Another Wildfire Season To Weaken Our Nation’s Key Environmental Or Public Lands Laws.”**

“With so much media and political attention focused on wildfires – and in some cases public lands management and calls to greatly increase logging on national forests by reducing public input and environmental analysis – it is helpful to review this year’s wildfire statistics to see what’s burned and where. [...] If lawmakers are going to use another wildfire season to weaken our nation’s key environmental or public lands laws by increasing logging (including calls by Rep Ryan Zinke (R-MT) for logging within Wilderness Areas) then the public should have facts and statistics available to help put the wildfires in context.” [Wild Earth Guardian, Press Release, [9/1/15](#)]

### **Alliance For The Wild Rockies Director Michael Garrity: “Stopping Illegal Timber Sales Doesn’t Cost Taxpayers Money – It Saves Taxpayers Money. If You Pour Enough Federal Pork Into A Local Town, It Will Create Jobs. But I Thought Congressman Zinke Was A Republican Who Did Not Support Socialism.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke introduced legislation late Wednesday requiring those who challenge Forest Service timber sales to post bonds with their lawsuits, simplifying collaborative forest projects to yes-or-no analyses and allowing state governments to fund national forest wildfire-prevention work. [...] But Alliance for the Wild Rockies director Michael Garrity, who has launched many of the lawsuits Zinke cited, said the bill would mean more government waste. ‘The Forest Service loses money on timber sales,’ Garrity said. ‘Stopping illegal timber sales doesn’t cost taxpayers money – it saves taxpayers money. If you pour enough federal pork into a local town, it will create jobs. But I thought Congressman Zinke was a Republican who did not support socialism.’ [Lee State Bureau, [6/4/15](#)]

### **John Todd, Scott Brennan, Melynda Harrison, Robyn King And Mack And Connie Long Wrote An Opinion Piece Criticizing Zinke’s Forest Reform**

“Montanans love our national forests. They are the source of our clean water, the places we camp, fish and hunt, and a storehouse of natural resources, including renewable resources such as timber. We owe it to each other, and owe it to the future, to make sure our national forests are well managed. Recently, Montana’s Congressman

Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. In January, over 40 Montana timber representatives, conservation organizations, sportsmen, outfitters, and businesses wrote to Montana's congressional delegation with a very clear message: work together to improve management of our forests. Listen to Montanans, and honor the hard work of Montana citizens in collaborating to improve forest management." [Bozman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**Montana Conservation Partners Guest Column: "Strike One On Rep. Zinke's Bill Is That It Was Crafted Without Input From Montanans."**

"Recently, Montana's Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. [...] Strike one on Rep. Zinke's bill is that it was crafted without input from Montanans. No listening sessions. No town halls. But more importantly, no support from the key Montana stakeholders who worked for decades to improve forest management? Strike one." [Bozman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**Montana Conservation Partners Guest Column: "Strike Two Is That While Rep. Zinke Says His Legislation Is About Supporting Collaborative Efforts In Montana—Which Is A Noble Goal—The Bill Actually Does The Opposite."**

"Recently, Montana's Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. [...] Strike two is that while Rep. Zinke says his legislation is about supporting collaborative efforts in Montana—which is a noble goal—the bill actually does the opposite. The congressman's bill re-writes the rules governing how decisions are made among diverse stakeholders on Montana's resource advisory councils. Don't like input from key stakeholders? No problem, just vote them down. That is not collaboration. Strike two." [Bozman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**Montana Conservation Partners Guest Column: "Strike Three Is That Rep. Zinke's Bill Lacks Balance And Fails To Address The Needs Of Multiple Interests."**

"Recently, Montana's Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. [...] Strike three is that Rep. Zinke's bill lacks balance and fails to address the needs of multiple interests. A key premise of collaboration in Montana is to advance areas of agreement in ways that benefit all stakeholders. Strike three." [Bozman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**Montana Conservation Partners Guest Column: "[Zinke Forest Reform] Strips Money From Restoration, While Creating Hurdles To Public Input In Decision-Making."** "Recently, Montana's Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. [...] The diverse groups that wrote to Montana's congressional delegation in January urged an approach that balances conservation and restoration. But Rep. Zinke's bill does nothing for either. Instead, it strips money from restoration, while creating hurdles to public input in decision-making. It's an approach that picks winners and losers and will not bring Montanans together." [Bozman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**Montana Conservation Partners Guest Column: "[Zinke Forest Reform] Picks Winners And Losers And Will Not Bring Montanans Together."**

"Recently, Montana's Congressman Ryan Zinke introduced legislation he says would improve national forest management. That is a laudable goal, if you can hit it. Trouble is, this legislation strikes out in its first at-bat. [...] The diverse groups that wrote to Montana's congressional delegation in January urged an approach that balances conservation and restoration. But Rep. Zinke's bill does nothing for either. Instead, it strips money from restoration, while creating hurdles to public input in decision-making. It's

an approach that picks winners and losers and will not bring Montanans together.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Guest Column, [7/1/15](#)]

**John Todd, Montana Wilderness Association Said Zinke’s Forest Reform Legislation “Was Crafted Without Input From Montanans.”**

“Montana Sen. Jon Tester said recently that Congressman Ryan Zinke’s forest management bill that passed the House will be a tough sell in the Senate. Zinke’s bill, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015 allows for categorical exclusions on some timber sales up to 5,000 acres and even has provisions for categorical exclusions for sales up to 15,000 acres. [...] More than 170 groups supported the Zinke bill, including the Montana Logging Association and the Montana Wood Products Association. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation also supported the bill. But other groups didn’t support the bill. ‘Unfortunately, Rep. Zinke’s bill was crafted without input from Montanans,’ said John Todd, of the Montana Wilderness Association. ‘No listening sessions. No town halls. But more importantly, no support from the key Montana stakeholders who worked for decades to improve forest management.’ [Hungry Horse News, [8/6/15](#)]

**Mike Garrity Op-Ed: “[Zinke’s] Solution To Hot, Dry Summers Was To Introduce A Radical Bill To Greatly Increase Logging While Simultaneously Reducing Public Review And Comment And Nullifying Our First Amendment Right In The Constitution To Challenge Federal Government Actions.”**

In August 2015, Executive Director of Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Mike Garrity wrote: “This is how much Congressman Ryan Zinke doesn’t know about forests in Montana and the wildlife that live there. In his IR opinion column on Aug. 11, Zinke claimed that we have spotted owls in Montana and that logging somehow prevents forest fires. His solution to hot, dry summers was to introduce a radical bill to greatly increase logging while simultaneously reducing public review and comment and nullifying our First Amendment right in the Constitution to challenge federal government actions. Zinke is completely wrong about both. Spotted owl habitat is on the Washington-Oregon-Northern California coast, not Montana. He is also wrong on forest fires, their causes and what logging will or won’t do to prevent wildfires. Both experience and the latest scientific studies refute his position entirely.” [Helena Independent Record, Mike Garrity Op-Ed, [8/16/15](#)]

**Mike Garrity Op-Ed: “Almost Every Day New Studies Come Out Revealing That, Contrary To Zinke’s Contention, Scientists Are Finding That Logging In The Backcountry Does Not Improve Homeowner Safety, Nor Does It Stop Large, Weather-Driven Fires.”**

In August 2015, Executive Director of Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Mike Garrity wrote “Forests are made of wood and when we have hot, dry summers they burn, just like they have since time immemorial. Fire is a natural and vital part of forest ecosystems and all the existing native species of plants and animals have evolved with fire over eons. Almost every day new studies come out revealing that, contrary to Zinke’s contention, scientists are finding that logging in the backcountry does not improve homeowner safety, nor does it stop large, weather-driven fires. The Forest Service’s own research, from Jack Cohen at the Fire Lab in Missoula among others, shows your home is likely to survive a wildfire if you use metal roofs, nonflammable exterior decks and take precautions to reduce fuels within 200 feet of your home. Further away than that does nothing to stop wildfires, nor save homes from burning.” [Helena Independent Record, Mike Garrity Op-Ed, [8/16/15](#)]

**Mike Garrity Op-Ed: “What Logging In The Backcountry Actually Does Is Cost Taxpayers Millions Of Dollars To Subsidize Timber Corporations, Spread Noxious Weeds And Destroy The Valuable Hunting And Fishing Habitat That Montanans Love.”**

In August 2015, Executive Director of Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Mike Garrity wrote: “What logging in the backcountry actually does is cost taxpayers millions of dollars to subsidize timber corporations, spread noxious weeds and destroy the valuable hunting and fishing habitat that Montanans love. If Zinke’s inaccurate claims on logging stopping forest fires were correct, wildfire wouldn’t have burned through the heavily clearcut former Plum Creek Timber Co. land west of Seeley Lake a few years ago ... which it did, while the clearcuts burned even hotter than many of the unlogged areas.” [Helena Independent Record, Mike Garrity Op-Ed, [8/16/15](#)]

**Mike Garrity Op-Ed: “Zinke Is Playing The Victim Card As An Excuse To Gut The Constitution, Hire More Federal Bureaucrats And Spend Millions More On Corporate Welfare For The Timber Industry.”**

In August 2015, Executive Director of Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Mike Garrity wrote: “Congressman Zinke is playing the victim card as an excuse to gut the Constitution, hire more federal bureaucrats and spend millions more on corporate welfare for the timber industry while trying to claim the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, a small grassroots conservation group, is somehow shutting down the forests. Someone should inform Zinke that the Forest Service says they are meeting their logging targets. Hence there’s no need to hack the law and Constitution to increase logging exponentially.” [Helena Independent Record, Mike Garrity Op-Ed, [8/16/15](#)]

**Mike Garrity Op-Ed: “It’s Scientifically Non-Debatable That The More Coal We Burn, The More Forest Fires We Will Have, Yet Zinke Can’t Seem To Make That Connection In His Ongoing Support For More Coal Mining And Burning.”**

In August 2015, Executive Director of Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Mike Garrity wrote: “Besides learning where spotted owls live, Zinke should also learn something about climate change. Scientists almost universally agree that our warming global climate and the associated impacts are major causes of increased wildfires. All Zinke has to do is take a trip through northwest Montana right now to see just how unbelievably dry the unusual drought in this formerly wet area has left the forests, where major rivers are now flowing at less than half their normal average. It’s scientifically non-debatable that the more coal we burn, the more forest fires we will have, yet Zinke can’t seem to make that connection in his ongoing support for more coal mining and burning.” [Helena Independent Record, Mike Garrity Op-Ed, [8/16/15](#)]

**Mike Garrity Op-Ed: “If The Forest Service Keeps Getting In Trouble By Proposing Illegal Clear Cuts, Why Doesn’t Rep. Zinke Take The Obama Administration To Task For Breaking The Law Instead Of Making Citizens Post A Several Hundred Thousand Dollar Bond To Challenge The Government?”**

In August 2015, Executive Director of Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Mike Garrity wrote: “Obviously Zinke doesn’t like it when Americans point out that the federal government is not following the law and ignoring the recommendations of its own scientists, which have clearly found logging doesn’t reduce wildfires. The only difference more logging makes is more roads will be built, more streams will be filled with mud, more elk habitat will be clearcut and timber corporations will get hundreds of millions of dollars more in taxpayer-funded subsidies. If the Forest Service keeps getting in trouble by proposing illegal clear cuts, why doesn’t Rep. Zinke take the Obama administration to task for breaking the law instead of making citizens post a several hundred thousand dollar bond to challenge the government? Can you imagine if you had to post a bond to file a complaint if somebody tried to break into your house? Being way short of actual science and facts, this is exactly what Zinke wants to make Americans do when the federal government tries to illegally clearcut our favorite watersheds or hunting habitats.” [Helena Independent Record, Mike Garrity Op-Ed, [8/16/15](#)]

**Zinke Electricity Reliability & Forest Protection Act Passed The House**

“Today, the House passed H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act, which modernizes our energy infrastructure, protects the electrical grid, streamlines energy exports, and provides regulatory relief for manufacturers and small businesses. The measure passed 249-174 with bipartisan support. Included in the comprehensive energy bill is Rep. Ryan Zinke’s H.R. 2358, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act, which is listed as Section 1112, ‘Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance on Federal lands containing electric transmission and distribution facilities.’ The Congressman also lead and passed an amendment to block the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) from preemptively stopping the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT), which the Crow tribe is a part owner of. ‘As a whole, this bill addresses a key issue facing Montana: improving our energy infrastructure,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘In order for us to remain globally competitive, we need innovative approaches to enhance our energy development potential. H.R.8 does exactly that. I am proud to have my bill, H.R.2358, included within the package. Currently, if a tree falls on a power line that is on federal land, utility crews must go through regulatory back flips just to remove it. It should not take an act of Congress to remove a tree. Our co-ops, who service 40

percent of Montana, deserve far better, as do all Americans who need reliable electric service to keep their lights on.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Introduced A Bill To Enhance The Reliability Of The Electricity Grid And Reduce The Threat Of Wildfires To And From Electric Transmission And Distribution Facilities On Federal Lands**

In May 2015, Zinke introduced a bill “To amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to enhance the reliability of the electricity grid and reduce the threat of wildfires to and from electric transmission and distribution facilities on Federal lands by facilitating vegetation management on such lands.” [H.R. 2358, Sponsored 5/15/15, Introduced [5/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “This Bill Is A Win For Montana Because It Corrects Federal Inconsistency And Indecision That Governs The Way Our Local Power Providers Can, And Cannot, Service Their Lines On Federally Owned Land.”**

“On Friday, May 15, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke, along with Democrat Rep. Kurt Schrader (OR-5) introduced H.R. 2358, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act. Congressman Zinke stated, ‘This bill is a win for Montana because it corrects federal inconsistency and indecision that governs the way our local power providers can, and cannot, service their lines on federally owned land. Currently, if a tree falls on a power line that is on federal land, utility crews must go through regulatory backflips in order to remove the tree. This can take months and in some cases years, and causes dangerous fire conditions in our tinderbox forests. It should not take an Act of Congress to remove a fallen tree.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [5/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Currently, If A Tree Falls On A Power Line That Is On Federal Land, Utility Crews Must Go Through Regulatory Backflips In Order To Remove The Tree. This Can Take Months And In Some Cases Years.”**

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### **Zinke: “We Should Be Doing Whatever We Can To Empower Our Co-Ops.”**

“On Friday, May 15, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke, along with Democrat Rep. Kurt Schrader (OR-5) introduced H.R. 2358, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act. Congressman Zinke stated [...] Nearly all of Montana’s co-ops have rights-of-ways that cross either U.S. Forest Service (USFS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. It’s an issue of forest safety and national security when a hazardous tree falls onto power lines and the USFS or BLM doesn’t let them address the problem our entire power grid is jeopardized. We should be doing whatever we can to empower our co-ops, not reprimand them for the government’s negligence.’ Congressman Zinke continued, ‘Already this wildfire season, Montana has seen over 38,000 acres burned, costing more than 1.8 million dollars. Montanans deserve reliable electric service to keep their lights on and an accountable and consistent federal government that will reduce power-line caused fires.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [5/19/15](#)]

## **Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Implement Reforms To The Federal Land Management Agency Fire Programs In Order To Address The Complexities Of 21st Century Wildfires In A More Cost-Effective And Efficient Manner**

In July 2015, Zinke cosponsored: “A bill to implement reforms to the Federal land management agency fire programs in order to address the complexities of 21st century wildfires in a more cost-effective and efficient manner.” [CQ, Accessed [7/31/15](#); H.R. 3363, Co-sponsored 7/29/15, Introduced [7/29/15](#)]

## **Zinke: “As Of Today More Than 3.9 Million Acres Across Our Nation Have Burned In Wildfires This Year Alone. That’s Larger Than The Entire State Of Connecticut. We’re On Track For More Than Double If The Conditions Don’t Improve.”**

“A new bill proposed by Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke called the ‘Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015’ passed through the House of Representatives on Thursday, and is now on its way to the Senate. [...] ‘As of today more than 3.9 million acres across our nation have burned in wildfires this year alone. That’s larger than the entire state of Connecticut. We’re on track for more than double if the conditions don’t improve,’ said Congressman Zinke.” [KFBB, [7/10/15](#)]

## **Zinke Said He Was “Not Surprised To Hear The Forest Service [Had] To Transfer Another Quarter Billion Dollars To Cover The Exorbitant Costs Of Firefighting.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke responded to news that the U.S. Forest Service is transferring an additional \$250 million of funding from non-fire accounts to firefighting cover costs through the end of the Fiscal Year. This is part of a total of \$700 million that been transferred since August. ‘Sadly, I am not surprised to hear the Forest Service has to transfer another quarter billion dollars to cover the exorbitant costs of firefighting. But what’s more upsetting is the fact that I’ve voted for and the House has passed a law that would permanently solve the wildfire borrowing problem by allowing FEMA to pay for wildfires the same way it pays for other natural disasters,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘This wildfire season has been one of the worst Montana and the west has seen in years. Fire fighters, rangers, resources, our forests themselves, and now our budgets have been pushed to their breaking points.’ [KMMS, [9/15/15](#)]

## **Zinke: “I’ve Voted For And The House Has Passed A Law That Would Permanently Solve The Wildfire Borrowing Problem By Allowing FEMA To Pay For Wildfires The Same Way It Pays For Other Natural Disasters.”**

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## **Zinke Said If More Forest Service Money Went To “Hazardous Fuel Reductions” The Intensity Of Wildfires In Montana Would Decrease**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke responded to news that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is transferring an additional \$250 million of funding from non-fire accounts to firefighting cover costs through the end of the Fiscal Year. This is part of a total of \$700 million that been transferred since August. [...] ‘In the month of August, the USFS spent a staggering \$627 million on fire suppression efforts. The top two budget expenditures for the Forest Service are wildfires and litigation. Imagine if this money actually went towards critical forest management tools, like hazardous fuel reductions. The number and intensity of catastrophic wildfires would decrease. The health of our forests would increase. And more people would be able to enjoy our

public lands. The House did our job in passing H.R.2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act; now it's time for the Senate to act." [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [9/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke On Tidwell Trip Cancellation: "I Look Forward To Chief Tidwell Visiting Montana Soon And Understand As A Commander He Needs To Be On The Front Lines With His Troops."**

"Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell cancelled a visit to Hamilton and Missoula scheduled for next week on Friday due to dire wildlife conditions occurring across the West. Tidwell and Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke were scheduled to hold a listening session in Hamilton Monday and a tour and roundtable event in Missoula Tuesday. [...] Zinke said he was looking forward to Tidwell's visit to Montana sometime in the future. 'This year is a historic wildfire season and has brought many deaths to firefighters battling the blazes,' Zinke said. 'I look forward to Chief Tidwell visiting Montana soon and understand as a commander he needs to be on the front lines with his troops. Lola and I are keeping all the first responders in our prayers.'" [Ravalli Republic, [8/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Urged Secretary Of Agriculture Tom Vilsack To Allow Montana's UH-1H Helicopters To Be Used To Fight Wildfires Across Western Montana**

"Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke called on Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to allow the State of Montana's UH-1H helicopters to be used to fight the blazing wildfires that are burning across western Montana. Currently, there are 26 active fires burning in Montana, including the 18,000 acre Thompson-Divide fire in Glacier National Park and the more than 28,000 acre Bear Creek and 11,000 acre Trail Creek, both in Flathead National Forest. In the letter, Zinke wrote: 'I join with my colleagues, Senator Steve Daines and Governor Steve Bullock, in urging you to reverse the current prohibition on the use of Montana's UH-1H helicopters for firefighting efforts. Considering Montana is in a state of emergency due to the severe wildland fires burning across the state, immediate action is needed to protect human health, safety, and public lands.'" [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [8/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The UH-1H Helicopters Were An "Effective Tool To Initially Address Wildfires" And Failing To Use Them Would Put "Livelihood Of Montanans And Lives Of Our Firefighters" At Risk**

"As you are well aware, the current fire season has had tremendous implications on states across the West. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has been working as swiftly as possible with available resources to effectively address wildfire dangers. However, regional and national resources are exhausted due to the sheer number of major incidents occurring at the same time. Montana's UH-1H helicopters would be an effective tool to initially address wildfires, just as they currently do on state lands, and then support additional suppression efforts. Failing to use these readily available aircraft with well-prepared aviation staff threatens the very thing we are aiming to protect: the livelihood of Montanans and lives of our firefighters. I urge you to reconsider the existing policy and make any necessary modifications to allow Montana to aid in the battle to contain these dangerous wildland fires." [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [8/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Using "Sensor Devices On Unmanned Aircraft" To Fight Forest Fires**

"Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke visited with fire information officials in Coram on Friday and spent time talking about resources, weather conditions and strategy. Zinke visited with a U.S. Forest Service incident management team on Friday, discussing deteriorating weather conditions, the Essex evacuation and resources. 'It shows you how hard working the forest service and the parks is at addressing the fires. The strain on the firefighters; the resources that need to be made available,' Zinke said. 'I think we can look at innovative technology...bringing technology on the battlefield - at the battlefield...fighting the forest fire. Looking at determination where folks are and this is something sensor devices on unmanned aircraft can do,' Zinke said. 'Especially where you have dangerous areas where you don't want to commit and expensive helicopter that's manned.'" [KPAX, [8/29/15](#)]

**Daily Inter Lake: “[Zinke] Suggest That Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Or Drones, Could Be Used To Conduct Infrared Surveys Of The Fire Perimeter, Arguing That The Equipment Would Be Cheaper And Wouldn’t Require Putting A Pilot In Jeopardy When Visibility Is Low On The Fire.”**

“The day after a fast-growing fire forced the evacuation of Essex residents from their homes, Montana’s lone congressman on Friday visited the fire team’s camp at the West Glacier koa. [...] At the fire team’s 1:30 p.m. briefing, Zinke spoke up to suggest that unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, could be used to conduct infrared surveys of the fire perimeter, arguing that the equipment would be cheaper and wouldn’t require putting a pilot in jeopardy when visibility is low on the fire.” [Daily Inter Lake, [8/28/15](#)]

**Zinke Said Washington, D.C. Mismanaged Firefighting Resources**

“The day after a fast-growing fire forced the evacuation of Essex residents from their homes, Montana’s lone congressman on Friday visited the fire team’s camp at the West Glacier koa. [...] He also repeatedly hammered on what he characterized as Washington’s mismanagement of firefighting resources, saying that the National Guard should be filling in for the stretched personnel fighting the Thompson-Divide Complex fires, which include the Sheep, Granite and Thompson fires. After an initial two weeks, firefighters at the camp are required to take two days off in a rotating schedule, meaning that the already limited firefighters assigned to the complex are experiencing additional losses. ‘It’s a standstill of bureaucracy. Certainly we can do better,’ he said. ‘The status quo doesn’t seem to be working.’ [Daily Inter Lake, [8/28/15](#)]

**Zinke Said The National Guard Should Fill In For Firefighting Personnel**

“The day after a fast-growing fire forced the evacuation of Essex residents from their homes, Montana’s lone congressman on Friday visited the fire team’s camp at the West Glacier koa. [...] He also repeatedly hammered on what he characterized as Washington’s mismanagement of firefighting resources, saying that the National Guard should be filling in for the stretched personnel fighting the Thompson-Divide Complex fires, which include the Sheep, Granite and Thompson fires. After an initial two weeks, firefighters at the camp are required to take two days off in a rotating schedule, meaning that the already limited firefighters assigned to the complex are experiencing additional losses. ‘It’s a standstill of bureaucracy. Certainly we can do better,’ he said. ‘The status quo doesn’t seem to be working.’ [Daily Inter Lake, [8/28/15](#)]

**Flathead Beacon: Zinke Signed Letter “Asking For Relief And Flexibility To Soften The Impact Of Foreign Demand And Exchange Rates On The Timber Industry.”**

“A witch’s brew of misfortune has cast a spell on Montana’s timber industry, staggering the beleaguered market as mills pare back hours and lay off employees with little relief in sight. [...] Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines and Rep. Ryan Zinke all sent letters to USFS Chief Tom Tidwell, asking for relief and flexibility to soften the impact of foreign demand and exchange rates on the timber industry.” [Flathead Beacon, [9/19/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Advance Elementary And Secondary Education Act And Bill To Increase Timber Production On Federal Lands**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the resolution (H Res 347) that would make in order a bill (HR 5) that would generally reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 through FY 2021, including the Title I program that distributes funding to schools and school districts that have a high percentage of students from low-income families and a bill (HR 2647) that would modify federal forest management practices to increase timber production on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands as a means of promoting greater forest health and reducing wildfires.” The resolution passed by 242-185. [CQ, [7/8/15](#), H.Res.347, Vote 392, [7/8/15](#)]

**KPAX: “[Zinke Was] Convinced Forest Management Reforms [Were] Critical To Head Off Epic Wildfires.”**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke says this summer’s explosive fire season shows the forest management reforms in his ‘Forest Bill’ are needed to counter the catastrophe of wildfires. As a fire season that burned millions of Northwest acres comes to a close, Congressman Ryan Zinke is convinced forest management reforms are

critical to head off epic wildfires. He remains praiseworthy of the Forest Service and its firefighters. ‘The amount of experience and expertise they bring to the table, I think the Forest Service has done a magnificent job of training and cultivating real, true professionals,’ Zinke said.” [KPAX, [9/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Introduced A Bill To Expedite Certain Forest Management Activities On National Forest System Lands Derived From The Public Domain When The Activities Are Developed Through A Collaborative Process Of Interested Parties**

In June 2015, Zinke introduced: “a bill to expedite certain forest management activities on National Forest System lands derived from the public domain when the activities are developed through a collaborative process of interested parties. to require the posting of a bond in initiating a legal challenge to certain forest management activities, to modify the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, to authorize additional funding sources for forest management activities, and for other purposes.” [CQ, Accessed [6/4/15](#); H.R. 2644, Sponsored 6/3/15, Introduced [6/3/15](#)]

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### **Zinke Voted For A Bill Overhauling Federal Forest Management Practices, Aimed At Increasing Timber Production; Promoting Greater Forest Health; And Reducing And Improving Means To Fight Catastrophic Wildfires By Providing Additional Funding To FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Passage of a bill, as amended, that would modify federal forest management practices to increase timber production on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands as a means of promoting greater forest health and reducing wildfires, and it seeks to end the ‘borrowing’ of fire prevention funding for fire suppression efforts by providing funding to fight certain catastrophic wildfires from FEMA’s disaster relief fund. The bill would also provide for expedited actions by federal agencies by expanding the types of forestry activities that can occur without environmental impact statements and by accelerating environmental reviews for salvage operations and reforestation activities after catastrophic events.” The measure passed 262-147. [CQ, [7/10/15](#); H.R. 2647, Vote 428, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Amendment to Strengthen the Wildfire Fighting Capabilities of Western States Through the Air National Guard**

“On Wednesday night the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) advanced legislation introduced by Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke that will strengthen the wildfire fighting capabilities of western states through the Air National Guard MAFFS (Military Airborne FireFighting Systems). The amendment will now go to a vote before the entire House of Representatives as part of the FY2016 National Defense Authorization Act.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “My Amendment Will Allow The Air Force To Improve Wildfire Readiness And Move Firefighting Capabilities To Western Military Hubs, Like Great Falls.”**

“Montana and other Western states have seen devastating wildfires rage through our lands, taking entire communities and leaving countless fatalities in their wake,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘My amendment will allow the Air Force to improve wildfire readiness and move firefighting capabilities to western military hubs, like Great Falls. In a year when wildfires are predicted to be particularly tough, this realignment of resources cannot come soon enough.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/30/15](#)]

**Zinke Claimed Largest Part Of Forest Service Budget Was “Firefighting, And The Second Is Litigation,” Said There Was “Tremendous Growth In Legal Industry At The Expense Of Forest Management.”**

“Zinke also responded to a question from Columbia Falls city councilor Mike Shepard about the Equal Access to Justice Act, which Shepard said was being used by environmentalists to sue the U.S. Forest Service and “shut down logging. Zinke said he recently met with the Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and they agreed ‘it’s not the same Forest Service anymore. The biggest part of their budget is firefighting, and the second is litigation,’ Zinke said. ‘The result has been tremendous growth in the legal industry at the expense of forest management,’ Zinke said.” [Hungry Horse News, [4/8/15](#)]

**Zinke Opposed Transfer Of Federal Lands To States But Wanted Better Management Of Federal Lands, Asked To Return To “Sustainable Yield Managing.”**

“At the same time, Zinke said he opposed transferring federal lands to the states. ‘I want to see better management of federal lands,’ he said. ‘How can we get more scientists and less lawyers in the Forest Service? How can we get back to sustainable yield managing?’” [Hungry Horse News, [4/8/15](#)]

**Zinke: “The Top Two Budget Expenditures For The Forest Service Are Wildfires And Litigation.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke responded to news that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is transferring an additional \$250 million of funding from non-fire accounts to firefighting cover costs through the end of the Fiscal Year. This is part of a total of \$700 million that been transferred since August. [...] ‘In the month of August, the USFS spent a staggering \$627 million on fire suppression efforts. The top two budget expenditures for the Forest Service are wildfires and litigation. Imagine if this money actually went towards critical forest management tools, like hazardous fuel reductions. The number and intensity of catastrophic wildfires would decrease. The health of our forests would increase. And more people would be able to enjoy our public lands. The House did our job in passing H.R.2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act; now it’s time for the Senate to act.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [9/15/15](#)]

**Zinke Signed Letter That Pushed The Forest Service For Answers On How The Agency Planned To Implement The Forestry Provisions In The 2014 Farm Bill**

“Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines and Congressman Ryan Zinke are pushing the Forest Service for answers about how the agency plans to implement the forestry provisions in the 2014 Farm Bill. In a letter to Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, the entire Montana delegation noted that after the Farm Bill passed over a year ago the Department was quick to approve Montana’s recommended areas that deserve expedited treatment for timber harvest, but since then there has been little action.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/23/15](#)]

**Zinke Asked Forest Service For A List Of Forestry Projects, Projects Planned For Montana, And How Projects Would Be Integrated Into The Forest Service’s Existing Planning Process**

“Tester, Daines and Zinke are asking the Forest Service to provide a list of potential projects along with the acreage, type of project, location and timeline for the work to begin. They also want to know how many projects are in the pipeline in Montana, and how are these projects being integrated into the Forest Service’s existing planning process.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/23/15](#)]

**Zinke Supported Changing The Way The Forest Service Funds Its Wildfire Suppression Efforts**

“Additionally, the delegation expressed support for changing the way the Forest Service funds its wildfire suppression efforts. Instead of using the general Forest Service budget and borrowing from non-fire accounts, Tester, Daines and Zinke support legislation to provide separate budget authority to help fight the most expensive and catastrophic wildfires. This would treat wildfires just like other large-scale natural disasters.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/23/15](#)]

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

## **Zinke Said The Land And Water Conservation Fund Was “In Need Of Updates To Ensure More Money In Fact Goes Toward Projects.”**

“It’s difficult to imagine the United States without Rocky Mountain, Grand Canyon and Great Smoky Mountains national parks. Americans cherish our lands and the recreation they provide. President Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican, was so inspired by the beauty of our nation that he preserved more than 230 million acres of public lands. It is time for Republicans to return to our conservationist roots. In 1965, Congress established the Land and Water Conservation Fund to safeguard natural areas and water resources and to enhance recreational opportunities. In every county in all 50 states, the fund supports local and state parks, hiking trails, hunting and fishing access, community pools, ballparks and playgrounds. The fund is fiscally responsible. It doesn’t add to the deficit, and states and localities are required to match the federal grants for most funds. It’s funded in perpetuity through royalties paid by energy companies for offshore oil and gas exploration. Nothing is perfect: The program is in need of updates to ensure more money in fact goes toward projects. But certainly we can reform the program without gutting it. Congress has broken a lot of promises to future generations; let’s not make the Land and Water Conservation Fund another one.” [Washington Post, Zinke Op-Ed, [11/22/15](#)]

## **Evangelical Environmental Network Bought Ads On Christian Radio And Religious Programming On Pandora To Support Zinke & The Land Water Conservation Fund**

“TURNING UP THE PRESSURE ON LWCF: The Land and Water Conservation Fund, the expired program used to purchase land located within national parks, found itself some new champions today. The Evangelical Environmental Network will buy ads on Christian radio and on religious programming on Pandora to support Reps. Paul Cook, Dan Newhouse, Rob Wittman, and Ryan Zinke, all members of the House Committee on Natural Resources, who back the LWCF. Also today, a group of 50 venture capitalists are running a half-page ad in the Wall Street Journal backing the fund. The House Natural Resources Committee will discuss legislation to reauthorize and revise the fund at a hearing tomorrow.” [Politico, [11/17/15](#)]

## **Zinke Spox: Zinke Believed “[Land And Water Conservation Fund] Works Very Well For Montana As Is.”**

“House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop has received praise and criticism from his Republican colleagues over his proposal to overhaul the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a sign of potential headwinds as the Utahian seeks to advance his bill. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), who is among a small number of Republicans on Bishop’s committee who are seen as potential swing votes on the chairman’s proposal, was unable to be reached yesterday while in Montana, but he believes ‘LWCF works very well for Montana as is,’ said spokeswoman Heather Swift. Zinke was the only panel Republican to break party ranks at a September markup in voting for a permanent reauthorization of LWCF.” [E&E Publishing, [11/10/15](#)]

## **Zinke: “It’s Time For Republicans To Return To Our Conservationist Roots” And Support The Land Water Conservation Fund**

In December 2015, Zinke wrote: “Before Thanksgiving we had a hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee about the Land and Water Conservation Fund. When talking with my colleagues from all over the country, I ask them to imagine America without iconic national parks like Rocky Mountain, Grand Canyon, Acadia, and Great Smoky Mountains. All of those parks were created by the LWCF. Since Americans first set eyes on the natural beauty of our country, it has been one of our shared values that those lands must be cherished and that recreational and sporting access should be maintained. Republican President Teddy Roosevelt was so inspired by the beauty of our nation that he preserved more than 230 million acres of public lands, much of which would become part of our National Forest and National Parks systems. While I received a lot of support for reauthorizing LWCF from Democrats, only a few from my own party are fighting alongside me for the future of the program. It’s time for Republicans to return to our conservationist roots.” [Billings Gazette, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [12/2/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Nothing Is Perfect, And I Respect The Efforts Of Those Who Seek To Make The [LWCF] Program Better.”**

In December 2015, Zinke wrote: “Nothing is perfect, and I respect the efforts of those who seek to make the program better. While I support the clean re-authorization of LWCF, I was not sent to Washington to be intransigent. If Congress cannot come to an agreement, then we should work together towards a solution. There are a host of possibilities that I believe would find bipartisan support. We could look at avenues to broaden the revenue stream so the burden does not fall solely on offshore drilling. The delivery of these funds could also be examined to reduce bureaucracy. But certainly we can reform the program without gutting it as the current proposal in the House does, which is why I don’t support it. Teddy Roosevelt once said, ‘This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in.’ Whether you’re an kid growing up in Baltimore or Bozeman, LWCF makes this country a good place for all. Congress has made a lot of promises to future generations; let’s not make the LWCF another broken promise.” [Billings Gazette, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [12/2/15](#)]

**Zinke: “While I Support The Clean Re-Authorization Of LWCF, I Was Not Sent To Washington To Be Intransigent.”**

“Nothing is perfect, and I respect the efforts of those who seek to make the program better. While I support the clean re-authorization of LWCF, I was not sent to Washington to be intransigent. If Congress cannot come to an agreement, then we should work together towards a solution. There are a host of possibilities that I believe would find bipartisan support. We could look at avenues to broaden the revenue stream so the burden does not fall solely on offshore drilling. The delivery of these funds could also be examined to reduce bureaucracy. But certainly we can reform the program without gutting it as the current proposal in the House does, which is why I don’t support it. Teddy Roosevelt once said, ‘This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in.’ Whether you’re an kid growing up in Baltimore or Bozeman, LWCF makes this country a good place for all. Congress has made a lot of promises to future generations; let’s not make the LWCF another broken promise.” [Billings Gazette, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [12/2/15](#)]

**Zinke Said He Would Support Other “Solutions” To The LWCF Like Broadening The Revenue Stream So It Was Not Dependent On Drilling And Reforming The Delivery Of The Funds**

“Nothing is perfect, and I respect the efforts of those who seek to make the program better. While I support the clean re-authorization of LWCF, I was not sent to Washington to be intransigent. If Congress cannot come to an agreement, then we should work together towards a solution. There are a host of possibilities that I believe would find bipartisan support. We could look at avenues to broaden the revenue stream so the burden does not fall solely on offshore drilling. The delivery of these funds could also be examined to reduce bureaucracy. But certainly we can reform the program without gutting it as the current proposal in the House does, which is why I don’t support it. Teddy Roosevelt once said, ‘This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in.’ Whether you’re an kid growing up in Baltimore or Bozeman, LWCF makes this country a good place for all. Congress has made a lot of promises to future generations; let’s not make the LWCF another broken promise.” [Billings Gazette, Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [12/2/15](#)]

***Helena Independent Record* Urged Zinke “To Fight Against The Radical Movement In The Republican Party That Is Pushing To Kill” The LWCF**

“Despite our pleading to the contrary, Congress failed to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund last month, putting one of the most successful tools for funding recreation, conservation and public access at dire risk. [...] It’s time for common sense leadership in Congress to get things in order. We know there is much to do to pass a budget before Dec. 11 and avoid a government shutdown. And in any other year, it might seem reasonable that funding for the LWCF take a back seat. But not this year, not now. We call on Sens. Daines and Tester and Rep. Ryan Zinke to fight hard for Montanans and for the reauthorization of the LWCF. We ask them

to fight against the radical movement in the Republican Party that is pushing to kill what has been the most successful recreation and conservation program in our nation's history." [Helena Independent Record, Editorial, [10/11/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Permanently Reauthorize The Land And Water Conservation Fund**

In July 2015, Zinke cosponsored "A bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund." [CQ, Accessed [7/15/15](#); H.R. 1814, Co-sponsored 7/14/15, Introduced [4/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Invited House Members That Opposed Reauthorization Of The LWCF To Take A Hike In Montana**

In October 2015, Zinke said: "On Thursday during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing, I voted for the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The amendment had bipartisan support and only partisan opposition, yet it failed 16-22. Looks like I have 22 meetings I need to set up. Better yet, I would like to invite the 22 members who voted against LWCF to take a hike. I invite each and every one of them to come out to Montana, hike one of our beautiful trails, and see what the program supports. The LWCF program funds important projects like new public fishing areas, hiking trails, and increased access for hunters and anglers. Enjoying our land is part of who we are in Montana and it is a multibillion dollar part of our economy." [Montana Standard, Zinke Op-Ed, [10/9/15](#)]

### **Daily Inter Lake: "Zinke Favor[ed] A Temporary Reauthorization [Of LWCF], Pointing Out He Believe[d] There's A Lack Of Transparency In How The Federal Fund Is Operated."**

"Conservation organizations, sportsman groups and others in the outdoor industry are lamenting Congress' decision not to reauthorize the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. [...] Montana's congressional delegation would like to see the Land and Water Conservation Fund reauthorized. Sen. Jon Tester pointed out how valuable public lands and recreational opportunities are for business recruitment in Montana. Both Tester and Sen. Steve Daines say they support permanent reauthorization of the fund, while freshman Rep. Ryan Zinke favors a temporary reauthorization, pointing out he believes there's a lack of transparency in how the federal fund is operated. Zinke stressed, however, how much the fund has helped Montana and other Western states." [Daily Inter Lake, Editorial, [10/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "I've Been Fighting For LWCF Reauthorization Since My First Day In Congress. I've Spoken To Leaders On Both Sides Of The Aisle In The Committee And Personally Appealed To The Speaker Of The House."**

In October 2015, Zinke said: "I'm a fifth generation Montanan. I grew up in Whitefish. I know what is at stake if we lose this critical resource. I've been fighting for LWCF reauthorization since my first day in Congress. I've spoken to leaders on both sides of the aisle in the Committee and personally appealed to the Speaker of the House. Montana's bipartisan Congressional delegation is united in support for LWCF. The American people support LWCF. Advocacy groups like Rocky Mountain Elk, Business for Montana's Outdoors and the Montana Wilderness Association all have come together to support LWCF. This isn't about politics, it's about Montana. It's time Congress gets on board." [Montana Standard, Zinke Op-Ed, [10/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Disagreed with Republicans Who Opposed Renewing the Land & Water Conservation Fund**

"U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., on Wednesday said the unwillingness of congressional leadership to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund will have far-reaching impacts on Western states, where public access and outdoor recreation is a cherished way of life. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said he supports reauthorizing the conservation fund. His communications director, Heather Swift, said the congressman disagrees with some fellow Republicans on the House Natural Resources Committee who opposed renewing the fund. 'Montana benefits economically and culturally when we take care of our land and ensure greater access to our public lands,' Zinke said. 'I think I stand with all Montanans on that.'" [Billings Gazette, [9/30/15](#)]

## **Zinke Signed On To A Letter In March To Committee Leadership That Called For A Reauthorization Of The Land And Water Conservation Fund**

“Sen. Jon Tester on Wednesday said the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has brought nearly \$540 million to Montana over the past 50 years, will expire at midnight, after a last-ditch effort failed to persuade fellow members of Congress to renew it. [...] A spokeswoman for Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said the congressman was a leading proponent in the House to reauthorize the LWCF. She said Zinke signed on to a letter in March to committee leadership calling for a reauthorization of the fund. ‘Our land is precious and needs conservation — that’s why I’ve continually voted against legislation to sell public lands and have consistently supported the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF),’ Zinke stated. ‘The LWCF enhances Montana’s tradition of public land conservation, tourism and outdoor recreation. Montana benefits economically and culturally when we take care of our land and ensure greater access to our public lands. I think I stand with all Montanans on that.’” [Great Falls Tribune, [9/30/15](#)]

## **Zinke: ‘Our Land Is Precious And Needs Conservation — That’s Why I’ve Continually Voted Against Legislation To Sell Public Lands And Have Consistently Supported The Reauthorization Of The Land And Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).’**

“Sen. Jon Tester on Wednesday said the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has brought nearly \$540 million to Montana over the past 50 years, will expire at midnight, after a last-ditch effort failed to persuade fellow members of Congress to renew it. [...] A spokeswoman for Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said the congressman was a leading proponent in the House to reauthorize the LWCF. She said Zinke signed on to a letter in March to committee leadership calling for a reauthorization of the fund. ‘Our land is precious and needs conservation — that’s why I’ve continually voted against legislation to sell public lands and have consistently supported the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF),’ Zinke stated. ‘The LWCF enhances Montana’s tradition of public land conservation, tourism and outdoor recreation. Montana benefits economically and culturally when we take care of our land and ensure greater access to our public lands. I think I stand with all Montanans on that.’ [Great Falls Tribune, [9/30/15](#)]

## ***Daily Inter Lake:* ‘[Zinke Said The LWCF] Program Isn’t Perfect, But That He Supports A Temporary Reauthorization.’**

‘For the first time in 50 years since its passage, Congress has not reauthorized the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. [...] Montana’s freshman Congressman, Republican Ryan Zinke, sits on the House committee and said Monday that the program isn’t perfect, but that he supports a temporary reauthorization and focused his critique on what he said is a lack of transparency in how the federal fund is operated. ‘I think the taxpayers deserve some transparency about where that money’s being spent and where the revenue comes from,’ Zinke said in an interview Monday. ‘From the standpoint of the Gulf states ... part of the revenue stream is a little tilted toward offshore drilling and the benefit is tilted toward Montana and other states that don’t have the same challenges offshore.’ Zinke said he expects the Natural Resources Committee to hold a round of hearings next spring to discuss possible reforms, but in the meantime he wants to see the program reauthorized. ‘I’ve been a long supporter of it,’ he said. ‘I know how much the fund has benefited Montana and the Western states, and I’ve been a very useful tool — particularly in improving public access.’ [Daily Inter Lake, [9/30/15](#)]

## **Zinke Said There Was A Lack Of Transparency In How The LWCF Was Operated**

‘For the first time in 50 years since its passage, Congress has not reauthorized the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. [...] Montana’s freshman Congressman, Republican Ryan Zinke, sits on the House committee and said Monday that the program isn’t perfect, but that he supports a temporary reauthorization and focused his critique on what he said is a lack of transparency in how the federal fund is operated. ‘I think the taxpayers deserve some transparency about where that money’s being spent and where the revenue comes from,’ Zinke said in an interview Monday. ‘From the standpoint of the Gulf states ... part of the revenue stream is a little tilted toward offshore drilling and the benefit is tilted toward Montana and other states that don’t have

the same challenges offshore.’ Zinke said he expects the Natural Resources Committee to hold a round of hearings next spring to discuss possible reforms, but in the meantime he wants to see the program reauthorized. ‘I’ve been a long supporter of it,’ he said. ‘I know how much the fund has benefited Montana and the Western states, and I’ve been a very useful tool — particularly in improving public access.’ [Daily Inter Lake, [9/30/15](#)]

**Zinke: ‘From The Standpoint Of The Gulf States ... Part Of The [LWCF] Revenue Stream Is A Little Tilted Toward Offshore Drilling And The Benefit Is Tilted Toward Montana And Other States That Don’t Have The Same Challenges Offshore.’**

‘For the first time in 50 years since its passage, Congress has not reauthorized the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. [...] Montana’s freshman Congressman, Republican Ryan Zinke, sits on the House committee and said Monday that the program isn’t perfect, but that he supports a temporary reauthorization and focused his critique on what he said is a lack of transparency in how the federal fund is operated. ‘I think the taxpayers deserve some transparency about where that money’s being spent and where the revenue comes from,’ Zinke said in an interview Monday. ‘From the standpoint of the Gulf states ... part of the revenue stream is a little tilted toward offshore drilling and the benefit is tilted toward Montana and other states that don’t have the same challenges offshore.’ Zinke said he expects the Natural Resources Committee to hold a round of hearings next spring to discuss possible reforms, but in the meantime he wants to see the program reauthorized. ‘I’ve been a long supporter of it,’ he said. ‘I know how much the fund has benefited Montana and the Western states, and I’ve been a very useful tool — particularly in improving public access.’ [Daily Inter Lake, [9/30/15](#)]

**Zinke Expected House Natural Resources Committee To Hold A Round Of Hearings Next Spring To Discuss Possible Reforms To The Land And Water Conservation Fund**

‘For the first time in 50 years since its passage, Congress has not reauthorized the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. [...] Montana’s freshman Congressman, Republican Ryan Zinke, sits on the House committee and said Monday that the program isn’t perfect, but that he supports a temporary reauthorization and focused his critique on what he said is a lack of transparency in how the federal fund is operated. ‘I think the taxpayers deserve some transparency about where that money’s being spent and where the revenue comes from,’ Zinke said in an interview Monday. ‘From the standpoint of the Gulf states ... part of the revenue stream is a little tilted toward offshore drilling and the benefit is tilted toward Montana and other states that don’t have the same challenges offshore.’ Zinke said he expects the Natural Resources Committee to hold a round of hearings next spring to discuss possible reforms, but in the meantime he wants to see the program reauthorized. ‘I’ve been a long supporter of it,’ he said. ‘I know how much the fund has benefited Montana and the Western states, and I’ve been a very useful tool — particularly in improving public access.’ [Daily Inter Lake, [9/30/15](#)]

**Zinke: ‘Over The Next Two Months, I’ll Be Pushing House Leadership To Reauthorize The LWCF, Reduce Government Spending And Pay Down The National Debt.’**

‘Today Rep. Ryan Zinke voted for the continuing resolution to keep the government funded through December 11, 2015. The bill passed the Senate and the House and will now go to the President’s desk. ‘While this budget bill is far from perfect, it keeps the federal government open for the people of Montana—and that’s my main responsibility to make government work for Montana,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘Over the next two months, I’ll be pushing House leadership to reauthorize the LWCF, reduce government spending and pay down the national debt. These short-term Continuing Resolutions are no way to run the government, so I urge Harry Reid and Senate Democrats to quit playing games, stop the manufactured crisis, and take up the funding bills the House has already sent to the Senate so we don’t get in this situation over and over again.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [9/30/15](#)]

## **Zinke Spox Said It Would Be Difficult To Get The Land And Water Conservation Fund Reauthorized In The House Because Some Congressional Members Have “Different Views About Public Lands” Than Zinke**

“As Congress battles over a way to keep the federal government open, the future of a popular conservation fund hangs in the balance. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, a pot of federal money used for parks and more, expires Sept. 30, and the latest draft of a budget resolution doesn’t include any language reauthorizing the fund, meaning new money won’t go into the fund after it expires. [...] It wouldn’t necessarily be the end of the road for the fund. Bills to make the fund permanent are still out there. The House is seen as a tougher place to get a permanent reauthorization measure to pass because of some members’ thoughts on public lands. Heather Swift, a spokeswoman for Montana Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke, said in an email that some in that chamber have ‘different views about public lands’ than Zinke. Zinke expressed support for the fund in a statement, saying the fund ‘enhances Montana’s tradition of public land conservation, tourism and outdoor recreation.’ [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [9/25/15](#)]

## **Zinke Supported Land And Water Conservation Fund And State Grants To Preserve Federal Lands “Rather Than Designating More Land As Wilderness.”**

“An important conservation program could expire in September unless Congress passes legislation to save it. The Land and Water Conservation Fund was the subject of a U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing last month. The hearing, which included Montana Sen. Steve Daines, comes as both the House and Senate consider passing legislation to permanently extend the fund. [...] Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke also supports the program. ‘Rather than designating more land as wilderness, we should look at programs that work in Montana, like the Land and Water Conservation Fund and state grants,’ Zinke told the Beacon last week. ‘These are viable options to preserve traditions like multiple uses on our land for anything from recreation to timber harvests. Montana stands to benefit economically when we ensure public access to our federal lands is preserved and maintained.’ [Flathead Beacon, [5/4/15](#)]

## **PUBLIC LANDS**

### **Congressman Zinke Voted to Transfer Management of Public Lands**

Zinke voted for the Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act (H.R. 2316) which would transfer public lands management authority to politically-appointed boards in each state, and would transfer up to 200,000 acres per national forest. [HR 2316, Vote 3, [06/15/2016](#); Committee on Natural Resources, [6/13/16](#)]

*Helena Independent Record* headline: “*Conservation and access groups slam Zinke's vote as land transfer flip flop*” [Helena Independent Record, [06/16/16](#)]

Sportsmen and conservation groups opposed Congressman Zinke’s vote on the Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act:

- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers [[Billings Gazette, 6/18/16](#), [Flathead Beacon, 6/17/16](#)]
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership [[Flathead Beacon, 6/17/16](#), [TRCP, 6/14/16](#)]
- American Fly Fishing Trade Association [[TRCP, 6/14/16](#)]
- Montana Wilderness Association [[Flathead Beacon, 6/17/16](#), [MWA Blog, 6/15/16](#)]
- Montana Conservation Voters [[Flathead Beacon, 6/17/16](#), [MCV Blog, 6/16/16](#)]
- National Wildlife Federation [[OurPublicLands.org, 6/16/16](#)]
- The Wilderness Society [[YubaNet, 6/17/16](#), [Flathead Beacon, 6/17/16](#)]
- Public Land and Water Access Association [[Helena Independent Record, 6/16/16](#)]
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation [[RMEF Blog, 6/22/16](#)]
- Montana Trout Unlimited [Facebook post, 6/22/16]
- Center for Western Priorities [[Twitter GIF, 6/16/16](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Has Repeatedly Supported Selling Public Lands**

The congressman supported Paul Ryan's budget that would have sold-off public lands in order to pay down the national debt. [Billings Gazette, [4/25/14](#); Great Falls Tribune, [10/6/14](#); [HConRes 25](#) p. 116]

Zinke signed the 2012 Montana Constitutional Governance Pledge, which included resolutions to sell off public lands [Montana Constitutional Pledge, 5/04/12]

Zinke voted for requiring the BLM to sell 30,000 acres of federal land along the Red River between Texas and Oklahoma to current and adjacent landowners. [CQ, [12/9/15](#); H.R. 2130, Vote 686, [12/9/15](#); CQ, [12/9/15](#); H.Res. 556, Vote 683, [12/9/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Opposed Efforts to Protect Public Lands Adjacent to Glacier National Park from Resource Development**

Zinke expressed opposition to the North Fork Watershed Protection Act, a bill sponsored by fellow Republican and then-Rep. Steve Daines that would withdraw 430,000 acres of federal lands in Montana from geothermal and mineral resource development. [Congress.gov [H.R. 2259](#), CBO, [2/10/14](#); GCRW 23:15, [5/21/14](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke's Signature Forestry Bill was Criticized for Reducing Funding for Forest Restoration, Excluding Public Input, and Promoting a Top-Down Approach to Forest Management**

Zinke's forest management reform bill, The Resilient Federal Forests Act, was criticized by conservation advocates for promoting a top-down approach, and for ignoring Montana's diverse interests. [Flathead Beacon, [10/21/15](#)]

According to the Office of Management and Budget, the bill would "undermine collaborative, landscape-scale forest restoration by undermining public trust in forest management projects and by limiting public participation in decision-making." The report continues: "the requirement in the bill to fully fund the ten-year average for wildland fire suppression would mean that less funding is available each year in the agencies' budgets for restoration and risk-reduction programs." [Executive Office of the President, OMB, [7/08/15](#)]

Several Montana conservationists said the bill would decrease funding for forest restoration and create hurdles to public input in decision-making. [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [7/1/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Supported an Amendment that would Cut Funding for Public Lands**

Zinke voted in favor of an amendment that would have forced across-the-board cuts on funding for public lands, potentially costing the Land Water Conservation Fund \$3 million in 2016. [[H.Amdt 589](#), H.R. 2822, Vote 407, [7/8/15](#); Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/19/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted to Stop Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks from Acquiring More Public Land**

In 2011, Zinke voted to stop the FWP from purchasing more land that would have increased access to fishing, hunting, and state parks. [[SB 301](#), [2/24/11](#); Montana Sportsmen Alliance, 2011 Scorecard]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted Twice to Commercialize Hunting on Public Lands**

In the state senate, Zinke voted to allow Fish, Wildlife and Parks to sell an additional 2,000 non-resident elk/deer combination licenses. Sportsmen's groups opposed this measure because it would force resident hunters to compete with non-residents, and it would commercialize hunting on public land. Congressman Zinke also voted to effectively destroy the Habitat Montana program, thus privatizing wildlife and hunting opportunities and cutting in half the dollars available for the purchase of hunting access. [SB 400, [3/30/11](#); HB 209, [4/11/11](#); Veto, [5/10/11](#); Montana Sportsmen Alliance, 2011 Scorecard; Great Falls Tribune, [10/6/14](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Opposed a Measure that Would Preserve Wilderness Access for Sportsmen**

When considering a bill to establish guidelines for approving federal construction projects, Zinke voted against an amendment that would exclude projects from being automatically approved if they limit access to, or opportunities for, hunting or fishing [HR 348, [Amendment #6](#), [Vote #512](#), 9/25/15; CQ, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted against an Increase in Funding to Support Public Land Management**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would increase funding for the BLM's Land Management fund by \$4 million, offset by an equal reduction to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Land Management. [CQ, [7/8/15](#), H.Amdt.535 to H.R. 2822, Vote 393, [7/8/15](#)]

### **While Accepting Thousands from the Coal Industry, Congressman Zinke Worked to Protect a Loophole That Allowed Coal Companies to Dodge Royalties**

Coal companies that mine on public land pay federal royalties at a value of 12.5 percent, half of which goes to the states where the mines are located. The Department of Interior concluded that coal royalty rules needed to be updated to be sure taxpayers were getting their fair share. Zinke sponsored an amendment to block DOI from continuing to spend money on their work to collect more in coal royalties. Headwaters Economics estimated that Montana stood to receive \$8.8 million in added revenue from royalty reform. Zinke voted for a similar amendment in July of 2015. [[H. Amdt.601](#) to H.R. 2822, 7/7/15; *Billings Gazette*, [7/8/15](#); *Headwaters Economics*, [May 2015](#); HR 2822, [Vote #408](#), 7/07/15; *Huffington Post*, [8/11/15](#)]

Zinke has received nearly \$10,000 total in campaign contributions from the Alpha Natural Resources PAC, the Arch PAC, and from the Peabody Energy Corporation PAC since 2013. Those companies are among the major coal producers in the Powder River Basin. [*Western Values Project*, [6/26/15](#)]

In an editorial, *Billings Gazette* said: "Zinke has tried to keep a loophole open that will rob Montanans (and all citizens) of money that's rightfully theirs." [*Billings Gazette*, Editorial, [7/6/15](#)]

The editorial also said: "Given the quiet nature of the budget rider, the lack of comment and the strong support Zinke has received from the well-heeled energy community, it looks like coal is getting a good return on its Zinke investment." [*Billings Gazette*, Editorial, [7/6/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Opposed Increased Safety Standards for Fracking on Public Lands**

Zinke opposed new fracking safety standards for well construction and the disposal of waste water in fracking conducted on federal land. He also voted to block new safeguards for hydraulic fracking. [KBZK, [3/20/15](#); [H.AMDT.576](#), [Vote #402](#), 7/08/15; *Huffington Post*, [8/11/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Receives Low Marks from Sportsmen and Conservation Groups**

In his first year in Congress, Zinke received a 3 percent rating from the League of Conservation Voters [LCV website, accessed [3/10/16](#)]

In his final session in the Legislature, Zinke received a 0 percent rating from the Montana Sportsmen Alliance. [Montana Sportsmen Alliance, 2011 Scorecard]

### **Congressman Zinke Supported the Government Shutdown**

The 16-day shutdown of national parks cost Montana's economy more than \$25 million. [*Billings Gazette*, [10/21/13](#); *Flathead Beacon*, [10/9/13](#)]

### **Zinke Stressed Protecting Mixed Use of Public Lands**

Zinke's 2016 campaign website read, "There are some things that are not negotiable: Faith, Family, the Constitution... and you better add guns and land if you're a Montanan." – Ryan Zinke ... Ryan is a fifth generation Montanan who grew up right outside Glacier National Park. Whether it's defending our right to bear arms or **ensuring mixed use of our beautiful public lands**, Ryan knows that it's our core Montana values that make Montana the Last Best Place. Ryan's love and appreciation for Montana's outdoor heritage began early and still continues to grow to this day. Ryan is one of the most outspoken advocates for better federal management of public lands and continues to introduce and support bipartisan legislation to ensure public access and traditional mixed use. Ryan is a staunch advocate of our right to bear arms. He believes our Second Amendment rights protect all the others. Ryan fully supports the rights of lawful gun and ammo ownership and he will not tolerate anyone trying to take that away through Congressional or Executive action." [RyanZinke.com, accessed [3/05/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Consider Rule on Public Lands Open for Hunting, Fishing & Recreational Shooting Unless Closed**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for: "Adoption of the rule (H Res 619) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 2406) that would require public lands to be considered open for hunting, fishing and recreational shooting unless the managing agency acts to close the land to such activities, and would, among other provisions, prohibit the Army secretary from developing or enforcing regulations to prohibit individuals from carrying firearms at water resources development projects." The rule was adopted to by a vote of 241-175. [CQ, Accessed [2/26/16](#); H.Res.619, Vote 91, [2/25/16](#)]

### **Zinke Expressed Concerns With BLM's Repeated Postponement Of Lease Sales**

"Today, fifteen Congressmen sent a letter to Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior, expressing serious concerns with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) repeated postponement of lease sales. In particular, the Members raised concerns about the appearance of significant influence from special interest and environmental groups, which prompted the BLM to postpone oil and gas lease sales in Arkansas and Michigan until March 2016, and sales in Utah until February 2016." Zinke signed the letter. [House Committee on Natural Resources, Press Release, [12/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Require BLM to Sell Roughly 30,000 Acres of Federal Land Along The Red River**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for: "Passage of the bill that would require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell roughly 30,000 acres of federal land along the Red River on the border between Texas and Oklahoma to current and adjacent landowners. The bill would require the BLM to sell at \$1.25 per acre, with no cap on the amount an individual can buy. After the boundary between public and private land is settled, BLM would be required to sell the remaining federal land along the Red River at no less than fair market value, with adjacent landowners given the right of first refusal." The bill passed by a vote of 253-177. [CQ, [12/9/15](#); H.R. 2130, Vote 686, [12/9/15](#)]

### **The Hill: "Obama Administration Issued A Veto Threat Against The Bill, Citing Opposition To Forcing The Interior Department To Accept A Land Survey From The Texas General Land Office Without Having Participated Themselves."**

"The House approved legislation on Wednesday to require the Bureau of Land Management to disclaim lands along a river in Texas. Passed largely along party lines by a vote of 253-177, the bill would direct the Interior Department to commission a survey of land spanning 116 miles along the Red River. [...] The Obama administration issued a veto threat against the bill, citing opposition to forcing the Interior Department to accept a land survey from the Texas General Land Office without having participated themselves. 'The Administration shares the goal of providing legal certainty to property owners along the Red River, but strongly opposes the approach of voiding or nullifying Federal surveys,' the White House said in a Statement of Administration Policy." [The Hill, Floor Action, [12/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Require BLM To Sell To Current And Adjacent Landowners The Roughly 30,000 Acres Of Federal Land Along The TX/OK Border**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 546) that would require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell to current and adjacent landowners the roughly 30,000 acres of federal land along the border between Texas and Oklahoma. The rule would also grant same-day authority through Dec. 13, allowing for expedited consideration of a possible spending bill.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 241-183. [CQ, [12/9/15](#); H.Res. 556, Vote 683, [12/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Allow Indian Tribes To Have The Right Of First Refusal On Purchasing Lands**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Cole, R-Okla., amendment that would allow Indian tribes to have the right of first refusal on purchasing lands. The amendment would require land to be sold at fair market value instead of \$1.25 per acre as under the bill.” The amendment was adopted in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 246-183. [CQ, [12/9/15](#); H.Amdt 2 to H.R. 2130, Vote 684, [HYPERLINK "http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2015/roll684.xml" 12/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Consider A Bill That Would Require The Bureau Of Land Management To Sell Roughly 30,000 Acres Of Federal Land**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for: “Question of whether the House should consider the rule (H Res 556) that would provide for further House floor to current and adjacent landowners the roughly 30,000 acres of federal land along the border between Texas and Oklahoma consideration of the bill (HR 2130) that would require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell. The rule would also grant same-day authority through Dec. 13, allowing for expedited consideration of a possible spending bill.” The question was agreed to by a vote of 241-174. [CQ, [12/9/15](#); H.Res. 556, Vote 681, [12/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Pushed To Get The Going To The Sun Road On The Park Service’s Priority List On Projects To Be Paid For By The Highway Bill**

“Congress passed a five-year highway bill last week that should be good news for Glacier National Park’s Going-to-the-Sun Road. While the bill doesn’t specifically have an earmark for the highway, as other bills have had in the past, it does set aside more than \$1.7 billion for Park Service roads over the next five years, including \$260 million in 2016. [...] The Sun Road isn’t the only road in need of repair. The Many Glacier Road has slumped so badly in places it’s like driving a roller coaster and the roadbed in some places is dirt or gravel—not exactly a pleasant drive to get into the Park’s showcase valley. The Park Service has just begun investigating on how to best fix that highway. Montana Congressmen Ryan Zinke voted for the bill and an aide to his office said he’s pushing to get the Sun Road on the Park Service’s priorities list. ‘I believe building a strong infrastructure is a fundamental role of government. Infrastructure is an investment that will prepare Montana for the future,’ Zinke, a Republican, said. ‘The highway bill is one of those ‘must-do’ bills because it supports such a huge part of our state and national economies. If we’re going to strengthen Montana’s businesses, we need reliable roads and highways. These are the same roads that carry coal workers to the Spring Creek Mine in Decker; connect tourists from across the country to our many public lands; and allow ag producers to ship their resources across the state. I am glad to see our government finally step up and recognize this is not merely an expense, it’s a path forward for every single Montanan.’ [Hungry Horse News, [12/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Lift Restrictions On Kayaks, Rafts And Other “Hand-Propelled” Vessels On Hundreds Of Miles Of Rivers And Streams In Yellowstone And Grand Teton National Parks**

“The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee voted Thursday to lift longstanding restrictions on kayaks, rafts and other ‘hand-propelled’ vessels on hundreds of miles of rivers and streams in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. [...] Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke was a yes vote in committee. The bill now goes to the full House.” [AP, [10/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Bill to Promote the Development of Renewable Energy on Public Land**

In June 2015, Zinke cosponsored “a bill to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and for other purposes.” [CQ, Accessed [6/5/15](#); H.R. 2663, Co-sponsored 6/4/15, Introduced 6/4/15]

### **Zinke: “We Have A Lot Of Our Public Lands Because [Teddy Roosevelt] Had The Courage To Look 100 Years Ahead And Wonder What The United States Should Be.”**

“Q: You’ve said Teddy Roosevelt is your favorite president. What do you like about him from a military perspective? A: He did what he said. Teddy Roosevelt wasn’t perfect certainly but he led from the front and he had the courage to think big. We have a lot of our public lands because he had the courage to look 100 years ahead and wonder what the United States should be. It was Teddy Roosevelt that drove the Great White Fleet, that understood the importance of having the Panama Canal, and that understood the importance of America emerging as not a country of isolationism but a factory of freedom.” [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Think We Have Lost Our Way In A Lot Of Ways. We Can Mine And Drill And Still Be Responsible Stewards Of The Land We Cherish. Coal, Oil And Natural Gas Are Going To Be Part Of Our Energy Picture For A Long Time And There Is No Doubt When It Comes To Energy That Montana Has An Important Role To Play.”**

“It’s late August in Montana and the North Fork of the Flathead River is running low and slow, snaking through a chalky corridor of wildfire smoke, its steep banks inscribed with the tracks of deer and grizzly bears, wallpapered with a mix of blackened snags and young lodgepole pine, and scored with clusters of radiant fireweed. [...] Zinke also is a proponent for ‘responsible’ extraction of natural resources, which he says has been discouraged by environmental litigation, and his version of timber reform includes scaling back environmental measures that groups suing frequently rely upon. ‘We live in Montana for a reason, because we enjoy clean water, clean air and the outdoors. But it has to be about multiple use and not single use,’ Zinke said. ‘I think we have lost our way in a lot of ways. We can mine and drill and still be responsible stewards of the land we cherish. Coal, oil and natural gas are going to be part of our energy picture for a long time and there is no doubt when it comes to energy that Montana has an important role to play.’ [Flathead Beacon, [10/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Keep Restrictions On Lawsuits, Such As Restraining Orders And Injunctions, Against Salvage And Reforestation Projects Conducted On Federal Lands**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Polis, D-Colo., amendment that would strike section 203 and Title III from the bill, which impose restrictions on lawsuits. Section 203 prohibits restraining orders, preliminary injunctions and injunctions pending appeal against salvage and reforestation projects conducted in response to catastrophic events.” The amendment failed 181-247. [CQ, [7/10/15](#); Amdt. No. 1 to H.R. 2647, Vote 427, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Expand The Authority Of The Agriculture Department To Sell Or Exchange Small Parcels Of National Forest System Land At Its Own Discretion, Without The Need For Legislation**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a: “McClintock, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would expand the authority of the Agriculture Department to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land at its own discretion, without the need for legislation. The bill would allow the department to sell parcels of land valued up to \$500,000, up from a current maximum of \$150,000.” The motion was approved 403-0. [CQ, [9/16/15](#), H.R. 1214, Vote 495, [9/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I’ve Said Before, And I’ll Say It Again: Montana’s Public Lands Should Be Public, And I Will Always Defend Them.”**

“Last night I broke with party ranks and voted for an amendment offered by my colleague in Colorado which would prohibit federal funds from going toward the large-scale sale or transfer of federal lands. I’ve said before, and I’ll say it again: Montana’s public lands should be public, and I will always defend them.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [7/9/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I Will Always Be A Steadfast Defender Of Montana Public Lands.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., broke with a majority of Republicans Wednesday to vote for an amendment prohibiting the Department of Interior from large scale disposing of federal lands. [...] The vote is the second time in recent months that Montana’s lone Congressman has broken ranks to vote either against mechanisms for sale or transfer of federal land, or in favor of the federal government retaining ownership. In April, he voted against a Republican-backed budget resolution that set up a fund for sale or transfer of federal lands. ‘I grew up just outside Glacier National Park and the Flathead National Forest. I understand our land is our way of life. It supports our tourism and timber industries and provides an unrivaled landscape for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and vacation for millions of visitors and locals alike. I will always be a steadfast defender of Montana public lands,’ Zinke said in an email.” [Helena Independent Record, [7/8/15](#)]

**Billings Gazette: Businesses For Montana’s Outdoors Noted That Zinke Voted In Favor Of An Amendment That Would Have Forced “Across The Board Cuts On Funding For Public Lands.”**

“For 50 years, the federal Land Water Conservation Fund has given back to Americans in all 50 states. The program directs a small portion of government royalties from offshore oil drilling to recreation and conservation projects that have allowed Montana to acquire numerous fishing accesses and built or improved parks in cities from Missoula to Sidney. [...] Businesses for Montana’s Outdoors, a coalition of Montana merchants, outfitters, ranchers and other entrepreneurs, noted this week that Zinke voted in favor of an amendment that would have forced ‘across the board cuts on funding for public lands.’ The amendment failed, but would have cost the LWCF about \$3 million next year. The amendment vote occurred the day before Zinke signed onto the House LWCF bill.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [7/19/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I’ve Been Very Clear With (House) Leadership That I Will Not Vote For Any Bill That Sells Our Public Lands Because Once Montana Sells Its Public Lands, It Will Be Purchased By People Or Organizations That Will Not Allow Traditional Usage That Montanans Have Enjoyed For Generations.”**

“Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke joined Democrats in supporting a measure to stop the government from spending money to sell or transfer public land to private owners and purveyors. The amendment, which failed Wednesday as part of a debate on 2016 funding, was opposed by two Democrats and 235 Republicans. Only eight GOP lawmakers, including Zinke, voted in favor of the amendment. ‘I’ve been very clear with (House) leadership that I will not vote for any bill that sells our public lands because once Montana sells its public lands, it will be purchased by people or organizations that will not allow traditional usage that Montanans have enjoyed for generations,’ Zinke said. ‘I’m going to do what’s right for Montana.’” [Great Falls Tribune, [7/9/15](#)]

**Zinke Said He Defended Public Lands By Voting Against The Republican Party’s Plan To Sell Public Lands**

In October 2015, Zinke said: “I’ve always been a defender of our public lands. This past spring I voted against my own party, against a budget plan that called for selling public lands. And then again on the House Floor I voted with Democrats to bar public land sales because open access to our public lands is a Montana tradition that I am proud to uphold. Montana is the last best place – we aren’t going to maintain that without maintaining our lands.” [Montana Standard, Zinke Op-Ed, [10/9/15](#)]

**Zinke Said To Keep Montana’s Outdoor Industry Strong Keep Public Lands Public And “Make Sure Costly Government Regulations Don’t Drive Our Mom-And-Pop Tourism Shops Out Of Business”**

“We stopped at Simms Fishing in Bozeman this morning to talk with small business owners and others involved in Montana’s outdoor recreation industry. We talked about ways to make Montana’s outdoor industry even stronger. The first step is keeping our public lands public and open to recreation. The second step is to make sure costly government regulations don’t drive our mom-and-pop tourism shops out of business.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [5/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed FY2016 Budget, Claimed It “Did A Lot Of Great Things” For Montana But He Would “Never Tolerate Our Land Being Sold Or Transferred.”**

“Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted no on S. Con. Res. 11 – FY2016 Budget which included a provision to sell federally owned lands. Despite Zinke’s no vote, the resolution passed by a margin of 226—197. The following statement is from Congressman Zinke. ‘Tonight I took a very difficult vote. I voted against a budget resolution that did a lot of great things for our state and our country. It balanced the budget in 10 years with no new taxes, and it reduced government spending. It repealed ObamaCare so that patients had the power of choice again. And, it strengthened Medicare and Social Security for generations to come. It was a resolution that I supported when we first passed it in the House. The Senate passed their budget shortly after. [...] Repealing ObamaCare and balancing the budget remain on top of my list of priorities, however I will never tolerate our land being sold or transferred. Montana truly is the last best place on earth. We must all do our part to preserve that.’ [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported The Budget Before It Went To Conference, Claimed The Conference Process Resulted In “Vaguely-Written Language To Allow The Sale Of Public Lands.”**

Zinke said, “Then both of the chambers came together to reconcile their differences according to the democratic process. This conference process resulted in the revised budget resolution that included a provision that, as a fifth generation Montanan, I simply could not vote for. It included vaguely-written language to allow the sale of public lands. I have said before, and I will say again: Montana is not for sale. In Montana our land is our way of life. Our public lands support local economies and provide generations of Montanans with world-class opportunities in hunting, fishing, hiking and other recreation. And, our land provides us with vast natural resources and unrivaled energy potential.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Incorporate Land Known As “The Wedge” Into The Arapaho National Forest In Colorado**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for: “Bishop, R-Utah, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would modify the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest in Colorado to incorporate within the national forest the approximately 93 acres of land that make up the ‘the Wedge.’” The motion was agreed to by 381-30 vote. [CQ, [4/28/15](#); H.R. 1324, Vote 175, [4/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Create A Process To Quickly Grant Access To Federal Land For Good-Samaritan Search-And-Recovery Missions**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for: “Bishop, R-Utah, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would require the Interior and Agriculture departments to develop and implement a process to quickly grant access to federal land to individuals and organizations who wish to perform good-Samaritan search-and-recovery missions for persons missing and believed to be deceased.” The motion was agreed to by a 413-0 vote. [CQ, [4/28/15](#); H.R. 373, Vote 174, [4/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Did Not Want To Sell Public Lands, Claimed It Was Not A “Question Of Transfer” But “Better Management.”**

[00:04:05] ZINKE: “I don’t want to sell any public land, I think you know Montanan’s have a legacy of utilizing our federal lands and our state forests. We enjoy hunting we enjoy access we enjoy fishing, I don’t think it is a question of transfer I think it is a question of better management. How do we return back to Teddy Roosevelt and ... in empowering our forest managers to make the decisions there rather than having the decisions made in DC. Now when I grew up a forest ranger had an enormous amount of power and he also had a staff. Somewhere we become, we have more lawyers than scientists in the woods, and we need to correct that trend. And let’s manage our forest based on better science and we can, we’re America.” [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [4/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Oil And Gas Drilling On Federal Lands In Northwest Montana, Said “Whether It’s For Timber, Recreation Or Energy, Montanans Deserve To Have Access To Our Lands.”**

“Just as you can tell that Spring is here by the longer days and warming temperatures, you can tell that another Section 106 hearing on the Solenex , LLC Federal oil and gas lease is coming up as the media, and some politicians, re-hash the familiar themes seeking to put a final stop to oil and gas drilling on Federal lands in northwest Montana. A 106 hearing is set for later this month on the issue of mitigation on an oil and gas lease held by Solenex. [...] Asked to comment about the unending roadblocks to developing resources on Federal lands in Montana, U.S. Congressman Ryan Zinke told the Sun Times, ‘Too many of Montana’s local communities have seen their economies decimated because the federal government refuses to honor the tradition of multiple use and public access to public lands. Whether it’s for timber, recreation or energy, Montanans deserve to have access to our lands.’ [Fairfield Sun Times, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Signed Letter That Urged Administration To Initiate Negotiations With Canada On The Columbia River Treaty**

“The Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana members of Congress, twenty-six in all, sent a letter to President Obama and urged his Administration to initiate negotiations with Canada on the Columbia River Treaty. The letter, led by Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Congressmen Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Greg Walden (R-OR), expressed concern about the slow pace of administrative review, and urged the Administration to act this year. This letter followed up on a letter sent to the President last year requesting action on this important issue. The Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommended through the ‘Regional Recommendation for the Future of the Columbia River Treaty after 2024’ that the Obama Administration take action on the Columbia River Treaty by mid-2014, but there are yet to be any developments.” Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Sen. Murray, Press Release, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Public Lands Were “Vital” To Local Economies, Claimed “Wealth Of Natural Resources Creates Jobs, Supports Communities.”**

Zinke said, “Public lands are vital to our local economies, communities, and more importantly, our very way of life. In Montana, our land is our way of life. Our wealth of natural resources creates jobs, supports communities, and provides generations of Montanans with recreational activities like hunting and hiking. It is of utmost importance that we preserve the public’s access to these lands.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [4/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Attacked for Previously Supporting Transfer of Public Lands to the State**

According to the *AP*, “The Zinke and Lewis campaigns have been shaped over issues such as managing public lands, the Affordable Care Act, energy, and women and families. Lewis has hit hard on the issue of transferring federally managed public lands to the state, in part because Zinke signed a pledge two years ago that included the idea and because the state’s Republican Party added it to their platform... Zinke has said he no longer believes in transferring lands to the state but wants to require that local governments have a say in their management.” [AP, 11/05/14]

### **Zinke Was Attacked in Mailers & Ads for Supporting Efforts to Sell Off Public Lands**

In 2014, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported, “Lewis has tried to hammer on Zinke, accusing the Republican in television ads and campaign mailers of supporting efforts to sell off federal public land.” [Great Falls Tribune, 11/02/14]

### **Zinke Was Attacked in Ad for Supporting Selling Off Public Lands**

In 2014, Zinke’s opponent, John Lewis, aired an ad attacking Zinke on public land issues. According to the *Great Falls Tribune*, “In a 30-second TV spot released Monday afternoon, a narrator clumsily sings a political verse to the tune of Woody Guthrie’s classic ‘This Land is Your Land.’ Here’s the verse from the ad: ‘This land is your land, this land our land, but Ryan Zinke, would sell it off, man; to the highest bidder, to out-of-state-billionaires, with Zinke, less access for you and me. He sold more elk tags, to out-of-staters, and got a zero, from the Sportsmen Alliance, with Zinke, less access for you and me.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/07/14]

### **Ad Support Included Ryan Budget, 2011 Votes, 2012 Pledge**

The *Tribune* reported, “The ad, which was paid for and approved by Lewis’ campaign, cites in part Zinke’s stated support for the Ryan Budget, a handful of votes Zinke cast in the 2011 Montana Legislature, Zinke’s stated opposition to passage of the North Fork Watershed Protection Act, and Zinke’s 2012 signing of a Montana Constitutional Governance Pledge that calls for turning federal land over to the states.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/07/14]

### **Zinke Public Lands Votes**

The *Tribune* reported, “The legislative criticism centers on three bills from the 2011 session: Senate Bill 301 would have put a moratorium on the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Park’s purchase of new land, including fishing access sites, state parks and wildlife management areas. Zinke voted with Senate Republicans to pass the measure, but it died in a House committee. House Bill 209 would have eliminated a statutory appropriation for one fund and would have reallocated revenues in another fund that are used to acquire and maintain land for wildlife habitat and public access. Zinke voted with Republicans in the Senate to pass the measure, but it was vetoed by then-Gov. Brian Schweitzer. SB 400 would have allowed FWP to sell an additional 2,000 non-resident elk/deer combination licenses. A fiscal note attached to the bill projected the measure would have raised \$1,875,920 for the department, but many sportsmen’s groups opposed it because it would have resulted in up to 2,000 more non-resident hunters competing with resident hunters and would have led to more commercialization of public land hunting. Zinke voted with Senate Republicans to pass the measure, but it later died in a House committee.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/07/14]

### **Supported a “Land Grab” Bill That Opened Unprecedented Development on Public Lands**

Zinke supports a DC written bill that would turn over Montana’s public lands to out-of-state developers and jeopardize access to hunting and fishing. [Billings Gazette, [8/31/14](#); Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [2/17/14](#); KPAX, [1/15/14](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Plan to Sell Off Our Public Lands**

In 2014, Zinke supported the budget by Rep. Paul Ryan that proposed paying off the national debt by selling public off our public lands. [Congressional GOP Debate, [5/28/14](#); Billings Gazette, [6/28/14](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed the North Fork Protection Act**

Zinke on several occasions in the past has stated his opposition to the North Fork:

#### **May 2014**

Zinke: “Up front, I didn’t like the North Fork basin bill either, and I like Steve, you know we all love Steve but I didn’t like that bill either because it took natural development out for perpetuity forever.” [GCRW, [5/21/14](#)]

#### **August 2014**

Zinke when asked about passing North Fork in Congress: “The area I have concerns with and still do is the in perpetuity. Particular with natural gas, and natural gas and if there is no impact with natural gas then why not? Why not bring that energy to market?” [Intelligent Discontent, [8/22/14](#)]

#### **June MT-AL Debate**

Zinke in June Debate: “So there’s a contrast in the candidates. My number one priority is to open that mine, which means a lot to Libby. John’s number one priority is to preserve the North Fork. My number one donor was Tommy Nusz from Oasis Oil, because he believes this energy equivalent.” [MT AL Debate, [6/14/14](#)]

### **Zinke QA Board Member of STWA-An Oil & Gas Extraction Manufacturing Service**

Zinke served on the board of Save the World Air (STWA). STWA designs and manufactures technological equipment for oil extraction and transportation. [STWA Corporate profile, accessed [8/29/14](#); [Board of Directors](#)]

### **Received \$85,000 in Fees from STWA**

According to Zinke's Personal Financial Disclosure, he received \$85,000 in directors fees from Save the World Air (STWA) that designs and manufactures oil extraction equipment. [U.S. House of Representatives, Personal Financial Disclosure, filed [3/06/14](#)]

### **Zinke Defended the Government Shutdown that Cost Montana \$45 Million**

In 2013, Zinke defended the government shutdown. According to the Center for Western Priorities, the 16-day shutdown of national parks alone cost Montana's economy nearly \$1.6 million per day. Moody's analytics, calculated the shutdown to cost Montana's economy \$45 million. [Billings Gazette, [10/21/13](#); Moody's Analytics, [10/21/13](#); Bureau of Economic Analysis, [9/17/13](#)]

### **Zinke Signed a Pledge to Transfer Federal Lands to the State**

In 2012, Zinke signed the Montana Constitutional Governance Pledge that included working "to restore all lands unlawfully seized by the Federal government, whether by congressional Acts, Rules, Laws, Decree, Executive Order, or any other means under color of law, to be returned to its rightful owners, the Sovereign Citizens of Montana." [Polymontana, [5/04/12](#); Montana Constitutional Pledge, [5/04/12](#); Independent Record, [9/27/14](#)]

### **Pledged to Transfer Federal Lands to the State-Opening It Up to Privatization**

In 2012, Zinke signed the Montana Constitutional Governance Pledge that included working to transfer federal lands to the state. Nearly 300 hunters and anglers protested possible transfer of lands, saying it would likely result in selling Montana's lands to the highest bidder and close down access. [Polymontana, [5/04/12](#); Montana Constitutional Pledge, [5/04/12](#); Independent Record, [9/27/14](#)]

### **Stressed Importance of Parks in Montana**

In the January 2012 issue of *State Legislatures*, Zinke said that "parks are critical to Montana's brand." Zinke said, "Parks are critical to Montana's brand. When people hear Montana, they think about wide-open spaces, clean air, clean water, the last best place. Our parks do a tremendous job of promoting that image." [State Legislatures, 1/2012]

### **Received a 0% from the Montana Sportsmen Alliance**

In 2011, Zinke received a 0% rating from the Montana Sportsmen Alliance that fight for the interests of Montana's hunters and anglers. [Montana Sportsmen Alliance, [2011 Scorecard](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Destroy the Habitat program, Privatizing and Commercializing Wildlife and Hunting Opportunities**

In 2011, Zinke voted for a bill that would effectively destroy the Habitat Montana program, privatizing and commercializing wildlife and hunting opportunities. The bill reduced funding for the Habitat Montana program by 30% over a four year period, cutting in half the dollars available for the purchase of access for hunting. [HB 209, [4/11/11](#); Veto, [5/10/11](#); Montana Sportsmen Alliance, [2011 Scorecard](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Commercialize Hunting in Montana and Allow Non-Residents Hunters More Access**

In 2011, Zinke voted for legislation that would add 2,000 more non-resident wilderness deer/elk combo licenses that would result in 2,000 more nonresident hunters competing with resident hunters, more commercialization, more roads closed and more land unavailable to resident hunters. [SB 400, [3/30/11](#); Montana Sportsmen Alliance, [2011 Scorecard](#)]

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### **Voted to Block Access to More Fishing, Hunting and State Park**

In 2011, Zinke voted to stop the state Fish, Wildlife and Parks department from purchasing more land, which increases access to fishing, hunting, and state parks. [SB 301, [2/24/11](#); Montana Sportsmen Alliance, [2011 Scorecard](#)]

### **Supported Funding for Open Space Preservation**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support for funding for open space preservation. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## **WATER RESOURCES**

### **Zinke Voted to Require EPA to Inform Owner of Excessive Lead in Water**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for: “Upton, R-Mich., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to forward data that indicates that a public water system contains lead levels that exceed the federal limits to the owner or operator of the water system, who would then need to disseminate information to their customers, including an explanation of the lead level, its potential harm to health and corrective actions being taken. It also would require the EPA to notify customers if water systems or states don’t do so. Additionally, the bill would require the EPA, in collaboration with water system operators and states, to establish a strategic plan to conduct outreach, education, technical assistance and risk communications to communities affected by lead in public water systems.” The bill passed by 416-2. [CQ, [2/10/16](#), H.R. 4470, Vote 67, [2/10/16](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Was Not “Surprised” Senate Dems Blocked Vote Requiring POTUS Rewrite The EPA’s Waters Of The US Rule**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke expressed his disappointment in Senate Democrats for blocking a vote that would require the President rewrite the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule. [...] ‘I wish I could say I was surprised that Senate Democrats are too afraid to stand up to President Obama and his liberal agenda, but I’m not. I’m disappointed that party loyalty has trumped the voices of their own constituents. The Waters of the United States rule is an unconstitutional abuse of executive agency power that would have devastating impacts on Montana’s economy,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘It is unacceptable that the EPA is bypassing Congress and the people to implement regulations that will be carried out by unelected bureaucrats who have never been to Montana and don’t know the difference between Bozeman and Billings. Our water resources are precious. The EPA rule will do nothing for conservation, only stifle the economy and infringe on the rights of private property owners across our great state. I commend Senator Daines for standing strong for Montana in the Senate and Attorney General Fox for leading the fight in the courts.’” [Office of Rep/ Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Commend Senator Daines For Standing Strong For Montana In The Senate And Attorney General Fox For Leading The Fight In The Courts.”**

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**Zinke: “The EPA [Waters Of The US] Rule Will Do Nothing For Conservation, Only Stifle The Economy And Infringe On The Rights Of Private Property Owners Across Our Great State.”**

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**Zinke Sp. Bill to Authorize the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority & The Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System**

In October 2015, Zinke sponsored: “A bill to authorize the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System and the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System in the State of Montana, and for other purposes.” [CQ, Accessed [10/30/15](#); H.R. 3867, Sponsored 10/29/15, Introduced [10/29/15](#)]

**Zinke Said “Water” Was A Constant Concern Across Montana**

“Between Sunday, October 11th and Saturday, October 17th, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke covered 2,000 miles and hosted or attended more than 25 events including more than a dozen town hall style meetings where members of the public were encouraged to come ask Rep. Zinke questions. [...] ‘Water, water, water – that’s what I’m hearing across our state,’ continued Rep. Zinke. ‘Whether you’re in Browning and want Congress to pick up the Blackfeet Compact, you’re in Malta and are worried about the CMR being designated a monument, you’re in Miles City and being told your cow pond has too much cow residue in it, or generally concerned about Waters of the U.S. rule by the EPA, water issues are top.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/19/15](#)]

**Voted Against Requiring Increased Disclosure On Groundwater Monitoring**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would require all inactive surface impoundments follow post-closure groundwater monitoring standards to meet current public disclosure requirements.” The amendment failed, 177-244. [HR 1734, [Vote #453](#), 7/22/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/22/15](#)]

**Voted Against Requiring Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites To Follow Groundwater Monitoring Standards**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would require all inactive surface impoundments to follow post-closure groundwater monitoring standards in the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) rule.” The amendment failed, 177-245. [HR 1734, [Vote #454](#), 7/22/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/22/15](#)]

**Voted For Requiring Alternate Safe Drinking Water Within 24 Hours If Drinking Water Had Unsafe Coal Pollution Levels**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that “would require the owner or operator of a coal combustion residuals surface impoundment to survey all nearby drinking water supply wells and to supply an alternative source of safe drinking water within 24 hours if well water sampling exceeds groundwater quality standards for constituents associated with the presence of coal combustion residuals.” The amendment failed, 192-231. [HR 1734, [Vote #455](#), 7/22/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Requiring Criteria To Prevent Toxic Contamination Of Groundwater And To Protect Water Sources, Including Great Lakes**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would require implementing agencies to require that all surface impoundment structures meet criteria sufficient to prevent toxic contamination of ground water and to protect drinking water sources, including the Great Lakes.” The amendment failed, 184-240. [HR 1734, [Vote #457](#), 7/22/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Collaborating With California Officials To Install A Fish Screen To Protect Migrating Salmon**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would direct federal agencies to collaborate with the California Department of Water Resources to “help installation of a fish screen at the Delta Cross Channel Gates to protect migrating salmon.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 182-236. [HR 2898, [Vote #443](#), 7/16/15; CQ Floor Votes, 7/15/15; Sacramento Bee, [7/15/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment To Provide Funding For Water Recycling And Reuse Projects**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would fund water reclamation programs and water reuse projects so that the Bureau of Reclamation can investigate additional opportunities to reclaim and reuse wastewater and naturally impaired ground and surface water. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 179-242. [HR 2898, [Vote #445](#), 7/16/15; CQ Floor Votes, 7/15/15]

### **Voted Against Protecting The Supply Of Water For Drinking And To Fight Wildfires In The Western United States**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to recommit that would ensure an adequate supply of water for safe drinking that is untainted by arsenic, salt, or other toxins which become concentrated in diminished water supplies, to fight wild fires, and to honor tribal water rights. The motion was rejected by a vote of 183-239. [HR 2898, [Vote #446](#), 7/16/2015; Democratic Leader – Motions to Recommit, [7/16/15](#)]

### **Voted For Overriding Legal Protections For Fish And Wildlife To Funnel Additional California Water To The San Joaquin Valley**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that would require that more water from Northern California be pumped south for agricultural uses in the Central Valley in times of drought. “The House bill aims to funnel more water to San Joaquin Valley growers by reducing the amount used to support endangered fish populations ... environmental groups and commercial fishermen called the measure a bid to override legal protections for salmon, migratory birds and other fish and wildlife. They said it would repeal the settlement of an 18-year lawsuit involving the restoration of the San Joaquin River, and limit the federal government’s ability to protect commercial and tribal fisheries on the Trinity and Klamath rivers.” The bill passed by a vote of 245-176. [HR 2898, [Vote #447](#), 7/16/15; CQ Floor Votes, 7/16/15; Los Angeles Times, 7/17/15]

### **Voted For An Amendment That Blocked Funding To Establish National Ocean Policy, A Policy Initiative Aimed At Increasing Planning And Coordination On Ocean Use**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that blocked funding to establish national ocean policy, a policy initiative aimed at increasing planning and coordination on ocean use. “The House voted along party lines to attach an amendment from Rep. Bill Flores (R-Texas) prohibiting the use of funds to establishing the National Ocean Policy, an effort the Obama administration began in 2010 with the aim of improving coordination and planning. The House has attached the rider to spending bills in the past, driven by Republican assertions that the policy is akin to ‘zoning the oceans.’” The amendment passed 236 to 190. [HR 2578, [Vote #291](#), 6/03/15; On Agreeing to the Amendment, [6/03/15](#); Environment & Energy Publishing, [6/04/15](#)]

### **Voted for Undermining the Clean Water Act**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act which “would require the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw its Waters of the United States rule. The rule would define the EPA’s

oversight authority over streams, ponds and small waterways that feed into larger ones...” According to Rep. Donna Edwards, “H.R. 1732 would halt the current Clean Water rulemaking, and require the agencies to withdraw the proposed rule and restart the rulemaking process. This is after one million public comments, a 208 day comment period, and over 400 public hearings.” The bill passed 261 to 155. [HR 1732, [Vote # 219](#), 5/12/15; The Hill, [4/29/15](#); Edwards Press Release, [4/29/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment To Prohibit Issuing Final Clean Water Rules If They Violated Previous Court Decisions**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act proposed by Rep. Donna Edwards. According to Edwards, “Under my amendment, the administration cannot expand the scope beyond those water bodies covered prior to the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court in those two cases, and it cannot be inconsistent with Justices Scalia’s and Kennedy’s judicial opinions in Rapanos. In addition to that, they can’t increase the regulation of ditches.” The amendment failed 167 to 248. [HR 1732, [Vote #217](#), 5/12/15; Edwards Press Release, [4/29/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Protecting America’s Waterways To Ensure Safe Drinking Water Supply**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would “protect the quality of America’s water supply for safe drinking, particularly in the Great Lakes, which has been affected by harmful algal blooms; drought mitigation in California and the West; agriculture and irrigation; and flood and coastal storm protection from wetlands.” The motion failed 175 to 241. [HR 1732, [Vote #218](#), 5/12/15; Democratic Leader, [5/12/15](#)]

### **Voted For Prohibiting Listing Of Prairie Chicken As Threatened/Endangered**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that would “prohibit the listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened or endangered species until 2021. The amendment also would de-list the American burying beetle as a threatened or endangered species.” The amendment passed, 229-190. [H.R 1735, [Vote #236](#), 5/15/15; CQ Floor Votes, [5/15/16](#)]

### **Voted for Prohibiting Funds Used to Regulate “Agricultural Activities” Identified As Exemptions Under Clean Water Act**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment prohibiting the use of funds to regulate certain agricultural activities under the Clean Water Act. “LaMalfa, R-Calif., amendment that would prohibit funds made available under the act from being used to regulate agricultural activities identified as exemptions under certain sections of the Clean Water Act.” The amendment passed, 239 to 174. [H.R. 2028, [Vote #212](#), 5/01/15; CQ Floor Votes, [5/01/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For House Consideration Of The Bill That Would Reauthorize Magnuson-Stevens**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 274) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.” The bill passed by a vote of 237-174. [CQ, [5/21/15](#), H. Res. 274, Vote 263, [5/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Told Outdoor Business People He Was A Moderate Republican, Who Was A “Reasonable Conservationist,” Said It Would Be Independent Voters Who Will Decide Whether To Keep Him In Washington, D.C., In 2016**

“Zinke has been basking in the praise of outdoor recreation advocates since voting last week against the joint budget resolution that passed the House 226-197. Zinke was one of 14 House Republicans who joined all 183 Democrats in voting against the resolution. [...] Politics makes strange bedfellows. The Montana Democratic Party, which attacked Zinke during the campaign as a candidate who would sell Montana’s public lands, is also criticizing Zinke’s vote. In a recent email to reporters, Democratic Party spokesman Bryan Watt called it a ‘desperate attempt to get right with Montana sportsmen and women.’ Zinke told the outdoor businesspeople he is a moderate Republican, who is a ‘reasonable conservationist.’ He said it will be independent voters who will

decide whether to keep him in Washington, D.C., in 2016. No one has registered to challenge Zinke in the coming election, Republican or Democrat.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [5/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring Protection of Surface Waters & Wetlands for Public Water Supplies, Ag, Drought Mitigation**

In May 2015 Zinke voted against an: “Aguilar, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would add provisions that would direct the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency in the process of rulemaking required by the bill, to protect the quality and integrity of surface waters and wetlands available: for public water supplies, to mitigate against harmful impacts of drought in California and other western states, for agricultural uses, and to mitigate against adverse impacts of flooding and coastal storms.” The amendment was rejected 175-241. [CQ, [5/12/15](#); H.R. 1732, Vote 218, [5/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Replace “Waters Of The United States” Rule With Rule Preserving The Primary Rights And Responsibilities Of States And Property Owners**

In May 2015 Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would effectively block the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing or implementing a proposed rule regarding the definition of the ‘Waters of the United States’ under the Clean Water Act. The bill would require the agencies to withdraw the proposal and develop a new rule with consultation from state and local officials and stakeholders. In consulting with state and local officials, the EPA and the corps would be required to seek to reach consensus on the definition of ‘waters of the United States;’ preserve the primary rights and responsibilities of the states to protect water quality and control development of land and water resources in the states; and protect the rights of private property owners over natural and man-made water features.” The bill was passed 261-155. [CQ, [5/12/15](#); H.R. 1732, Vote 219, [5/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “[Waters Of The U.S (WOTUS) Rule] Will Do Nothing For Conservation, Only Stifle The Economy And Infringe On The Rights Of Private Property Owners Across Our Great State.”**

“Yesterday a U.S. District Court judge in North Dakota issued a temporary injunction against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers’ Waters of the U.S (WOTUS) rule, calling it ‘exceptionally expansive.’ The ruling blocks implementation of the rule in 13 states pending further judicial proceedings. Montana is one of 13 states who will receive the injunction, others include: North Dakota, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming. Earlier this year, Zinke voted in support of H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, which would require the EPA to withdraw its proposal or finalized rule. ‘The Waters of the United States rule is an unconstitutional abuse of executive power that would have devastating impacts on Montana’s economy,’ said Rep. Ryan Zinke. ‘It is unacceptable that the EPA is bypassing Congress and the people to implement regulations that will be carried out by unelected bureaucrats who have never been to Montana and don’t know the difference between Bozeman and Billings. Our water resources are precious. The EPA rule will do nothing for conservation, only stifle the economy and infringe on the rights of private property owners across our great state. I commend Attorney General Fox for leading the fight in the courts and winning the injunction for Montana.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [8/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Not Allowing The “Waters Of The United States Rule” To Be Implemented If It Expands The Scope Of The Federal Water Pollution Control Act To Certain Bodies Of Water**

In May 2015 Zinke voted against: “Edwards, D-Md., amendment that would allow the currently proposed ‘waters of the United States’ rule, as well as any newly developed rule, to be implemented as long as the final rule meets certain requirements. A final rule could not expand the scope of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act beyond those bodies of water covered prior to Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006, would need to be consistent with the latest peer-reviewed scientific studies and would need to be promulgated with input from state and local governments and from the public. The amendment would list specific bodies of water that could

not be more regulated under a final rule (including drainage ditches and artificial farm and stock ponds).” The amendment was rejected 167-248. [CQ, [5/12/15](#); H.R. 1732, Vote 217, [5/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed EPA Water Of The U.S. Rule And Urged Senate Colleagues To Block The Rule**

“Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke called on the Senate to take swift action to block the Obama Administration’s Waters of the U.S. rule carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Administration announced its final rule today. Zinke voted in support of H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, which would require the EPA to withdraw its proposal or finalized rule. The Senate adjourned for recess without taking up the issue. ‘It is absolutely unacceptable that the EPA is bypassing Congress and the people to implement regulations that will be carried out by unelected bureaucrats who have never been to Montana and don’t know the difference between Bozeman and Billings,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘I proudly voted to stop the EPA’s water grab and to preserve landowners, farmers and ranchers rights to make a good living on their own land. The EPA rule will do nothing for conservation, only stifle the economy. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to move swiftly and block the EPA’s water grab as soon as they return to the Capitol.’ [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [5/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Proudly Voted To Stop The EPA’s Water Grab And To Preserve Landowners, Farmers And Ranchers Rights To Make A Good Living On Their Own Land. The EPA Rule Will Do Nothing For Conservation, Only Stifle The Economy.”**

“Today Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke called on the Senate to take swift action to block the Obama Administration’s Waters of the U.S. rule carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Administration announced its final rule today. Zinke voted in support of H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, which would require the EPA to withdraw its proposal or finalized rule. The Senate adjourned for recess without taking up the issue. ‘It is absolutely unacceptable that the EPA is bypassing Congress and the people to implement regulations that will be carried out by unelected bureaucrats who have never been to Montana and don’t know the difference between Bozeman and Billings,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘I proudly voted to stop the EPA’s water grab and to preserve landowners, farmers and ranchers rights to make a good living on their own land. The EPA rule will do nothing for conservation, only stifle the economy. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to move swiftly and block the EPA’s water grab as soon as they return to the Capitol.’ [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [5/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Water Of The U.S. Rule Could Make Basic Farming Procedures Like Weed Control And Fertilizer Application Impossible**

“Republican lawmakers from Montana criticized a new federal water rule unveiled Wednesday to protect streams and wetlands, arguing it would put undue regulation on farmers and ranchers. [...] The rule could make basic farming procedures like weed control and fertilizer application impossible, Zinke said.” [Great Falls Tribune, [5/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Signed Letter to WH Requesting Public Input Included in Decision on Federal Flood Risk Management Standard**

“Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX) today joined with Rep. John Ratcliffe (R-TX) and 53 other House colleagues in sending a letter to President Obama requesting information on public input that was included in the decision making process when issuing Executive Order 13690, ‘Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.’ Olson and many others have expressed concern about a lack of transparency during the process of developing this order.” Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Rep. Pete Olson, Press Release, [4/22/15](#)]

## **WILDLIFE & SPECIES PROTECTION**

### **Zinke Voted to Allow Voluntary Vegetation Management in Certain Areas Without Liability for Wildlife Damage**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Cramer, R-N.D., amendment that would permit voluntary vegetation management within 150 feet of certain right-of-ways near structures for selective thinning and fuel reduction

without being held liable for wildlife damage, loss, or injury, including the cost of fire suppression, except in cases of gross negligence or criminal misconduct.” The amendment was adopted by a 252-170 vote. [CQ, [12/3/15](#); H.Amdt.862 to H.R. 8, Vote 668, [12/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Excluding Projects That Would Limit Access to or Opportunities for Hunting or Fishing**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Dingell, D-Mich., amendment that would exclude projects that would limit access to or opportunities for hunting or fishing, or that would affect an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act from the bill’s provision that would automatically approve projects if the agency has not made a decision within the bill’s deadlines.” The amendment was rejected by a 187-223 vote. [CQ, [9/25/15](#); H.Amdt.703 to H R 348, Vote 512, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Voted For Klamath River Basin Contractors Bigger Role in the Endangered Species Act Consulting Process**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that would provide contractors operating at the Klamath Project in Oregon and California, if Reclamation initiates actions under the Endangered Species Act, all the “rights and responsibilities” extended to applicants in the consultation process. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 246-172. [HR 2898, [Vote #444](#), 7/16/15; CQ Floor Votes, 7/15/15]

### **Voted to Expedite Environmental Reviews of Logging & Underbrush Removal Projects On Tribal And Federal Lands**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015 that “would speed up environmental reviews of logging and underbrush removal projects on tribal and federal lands. The Obama administration opposes the measure ... The bill would allow shortened environmental reviews for projects to remove trees after natural disasters such as floods, landslides or insect or disease outbreaks; tree removal to comply with forest management plans such as wildlife habitat improvement; and thinning to reduce the risk of wildfires. Democrats questioned a provision that would require individuals or groups that want to challenge approved projects in court to post bonds large enough to cover estimated legal fees and expenses.” The bill passed, 262 to 167, and then referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. [HR 2647, [Vote #428](#), 7/09/15; CQ News, [7/09/15](#)]

### **The Office Of Management And Budget Claimed HR 2647 Will Undermine Public Trust In Forest Management Projects**

“HR 2647 includes several provisions that will undermine collaborative, landscape-scale forest restoration by undermining public trust in forest management projects and by limiting public participation in decision-making.” [Office of Management and Budget, [7/08/15](#)]

### **Would Also Reduce Available Funding In The Forest Service’s Budget For Restoration And Risk Reduction Programs**

“[T]he requirement in H.R. 2647 to fully fund the ten-year average for wildland fire suppression would mean that less funding is available each year in the agencies’ budgets for restoration and risk reduction programs as it is diverted to the ever-increasing ten-year average.” [Office of Management and Budget, [7/08/15](#)]

### **Would Make It More Difficult To Challenge Forest Restoration Projects In Court**

“[T]he Administration opposes provisions in the bill that require litigants to post a bond when challenging forest restoration projects. As the Forest Service has demonstrated, the best way to address concerns about litigation is to develop restoration projects in partnership with broad stakeholder interests through a transparent process informed by the best available science.” [Office of Management and Budget, [7/08/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment to Shift \$4M from BLM to Fish & Wildlife Service to Fight Against Invasive Species**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to reduce the Bureau of Land Management by \$4,010,000 and increase the US Fish and Wildlife Service by \$3,902,000. According to the amendment's sponsor, Rep. John Garamendi, "There is a problem in the [Sacramento-San Joaquin River] delta ... The delta is being totally overrun by water hyacinths. Other parts of the United States and the West are also finding these invasive water squats plants plugging their pumps, reducing water supply ... What this amendment does is address that problem by adding \$3,902,000 to the aquatic habitat and species conservation fund, thereby allowing the Federal agencies to work with the State and local agencies to attack the aquatic plants ... those who want to have more water flowing south to the San Joaquin Valley and southern California's great metropolitan areas, including Orange County, ought to be in favor of unplugging the pumps and getting the water hyacinths reduced in the delta." The amendment failed, 181 to 244. [HR 2822, [Vote #393](#), 7/08/15; Bill Summary, Library of Congress, [7/08/15](#), House Congressional Record, Page H4733, [6/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed Trees Destroyed By Pine Beetles Were "A Huge Issue"**

"The pine beetle epidemic in Helena peaked in 2009 and left the forests in devastation. [...] McKelvey has been involved in many projects to mitigate the massacre the pine beetles left behind. But he isn't alone, Congressman Ryan Zinke, has been advocating for the forests in the 2014 farm bill. 'A lack of attention given where the dead and dying trees is a huge issue. We want to make sure Montana enjoys our forests and that they don't burn down,' said Zinke. It's hard to enjoy the outdoors with all the dead trees in the way. 'People who like to hike need to come up and take a look at some of these trails because you can't hike them. Those trails are blocked.' However, it's not a lost cause. 'You know all is not lost. There is still a green forest out there. It's going to be a beautiful forest, but it's changing. There's no question about that.'" [KTVH, [5/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke On Forest Conservation: "I Think You Can Log And I Think We Should Log But I Think You Need To Do It Right So You Don't Clear-Cut Everything."**

"American history teacher Brian Fox's seventh graders were not afraid to ask tough questions of U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., during a video chat session Thursday afternoon. [...] 'I feel like he answered it really well,' student Abi Manger said about Zinke's reply to her question on how he felt about making public lands and forest more accessible to logging. Zinke said he thought responsible logging could be done to prevent spending millions on wildfires. 'I'm what's called a Teddy Roosevelt Republican that means that I'm a conservationist. I like to make sure our woods are healthy. I like to make sure that our wildlife are healthy, and part of that is harvesting timber so we can control the amount of fuel in the forest,' Zinke said. 'I think you can log and I think we should log but I think you need to do it right so you don't clear-cut everything.'" [Daily Inter Lake, [5/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said "Healthy Grazing And Active Thinning" Remove Fuel For Wildfires, Said U.S. Had Spent More Than \$1.8 Billion Fighting Wildfires Over Past Five Years**

"Saturday is 'National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day.' As the weather gets warmer, fire season is also coming our way. Today is National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Did you know that for the past five years the federal government has spent \$1.8 billion fighting wildfires? With active forest management we can get ahead of the problem – preventing fires while protecting the environment and reducing the cost to taxpayers. Healthy grazing and active thinning removes dead trees and overgrown invasive species which act as hazardous fuel for fires. This weekend kicks off Wildfire Awareness Month in my home, the great state of Montana. I invite you to join us and take an active interest in protecting our nation from threatening wildfires today, this month, and all year round." [Congressman Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [5/2/15](#)]

### **Voted for Amendment Limiting Water Used To "Flush Fish Diseases Out Of Klamath River"**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment limiting the amount of water released from Lewiston Dam into the Trinity River, which protects salmon from becoming infected by fish diseases. "An amendment to a House appropriations bill to limit the amount of water sent down the Trinity River has come under fire from fish and

wildlife groups that say the move could lead to a massive fish die-off downstream in the Klamath River. The amendment, by U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa, R-Richvale, would prohibit releasing more water from Lewiston Dam into the Trinity River in late summer to keep salmon from becoming sickened by fish diseases. LaMalfa said the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which controls the dam, should not be allowed to send more water downstream than allowed under 15-year-old agreement called the ‘Record of Decision.’” The amendment passed, 228 to 183. [H.R. 2028, [Vote #213](#), 5/01/15; Record Searchlight, [5/07/15](#)]

#### **Amendment Limited Amount Of Water Released From Dam Into Trinity River**

“An amendment to a House appropriations bill to limit the amount of water sent down the Trinity River has come under fire from fish and wildlife groups that say the move could lead to a massive fish die-off downstream in the Klamath River. The amendment, by U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa, R-Richvale, would prohibit releasing more water from Lewiston Dam into the Trinity River in late summer to keep salmon from becoming sickened by fish diseases.” [Record Searchlight, [5/07/15](#)]

#### **Record Searchlight: 2012-2015: U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation Sent Higher Levels Of Colder Water To “Flush Disease-Causing Pathogens Out Of the River”**

“During the past three years, the bureau has sent higher levels of colder water down the river to flush fish diseases out of the Klamath River. In the fall thousands of salmon annually swim up the Klamath River, crowding into pools, where fish diseases can spread in the warmer water conditions. The past three years, the bureau has used water from the Trinity, which flows into the Klamath, to flush disease-causing pathogens out of the river, ease fish crowding and lower the water temperature.” [Record Searchlight, [5/07/15](#)]

#### **During Fall, Thousands Of Fish Swim Up Klamath River, Crowding Into Pools, Where Fish Diseases Spread In Warmer Temperatures**

“During the past three years, the bureau has sent higher levels of colder water down the river to flush fish diseases out of the Klamath River. In the fall thousands of salmon annually swim up the Klamath River, crowding into pools, where fish diseases can spread in the warmer water conditions. The past three years, the bureau has used water from the Trinity, which flows into the Klamath, to flush disease-causing pathogens out of the river, ease fish crowding and lower the water temperature.” [Record Searchlight, [5/07/15](#)]

#### **Fisheries And Environmental Groups Believed Measure Had Potential To Cause Massive Fish Die Offs**

“An amendment to a House appropriations bill to limit the amount of water sent down the Trinity River has come under fire from fish and wildlife groups that say the move could lead to a massive fish die-off downstream in the Klamath River. The amendment, by U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa, R-Richvale, would prohibit releasing more water from Lewiston Dam into the Trinity River in late summer to keep salmon from becoming sickened by fish diseases. LaMalfa said the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which controls the dam, should not be allowed to send more water downstream than allowed under 15-year-old agreement called the ‘Record of Decision.’ ... The amendment was added to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which the House approved last week.” [Record Searchlight, [5/07/15](#)]

#### **Pacific Coast Federation Of Fishermen’s Association Believed Fish Kill Would Negatively Affect West Coast Commercial And Recreational Fishing Industry**

“Glen Spain, Northwest regional director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, said a fish kill would also hurt the West Coast commercial and recreational fishing industry. ‘Again, it’s going to affect the economy of the whole Northern California if we have another fish kill,’ Spain said.” [Record Searchlight, [5/07/15](#)]

#### **Higher Flows Into River Meant Less Water Was Piped Into Powerhouses, Forcing Redding To Buy More Expensive Electricity Elsewhere**

“Higher flows down the Trinity River mean that less water is piped over the mountains from Lewiston Lake to the Carr Powerhouse at Whiskeytown Lake and the Spring Creek Powerhouse at Keswick Lake. When those

two powerhouses generate less electricity, Redding Electric Utility has to purchase more expensive power from other sources, Eastman said. ‘Requiring the Bureau to maintain Trinity flows under the Record of Decision keeps more water available to all Central Valley Project water recipients, including Redding and agriculture in the North State,’ he said. REU pays about \$6.5 million per year for electricity from the Western Area Power Administration, which distributes the power, said Barry Tippin, Redding’s assistant city manager. The city pays hundreds of thousands of dollars more for power if it has to get electricity from other sources when hydropower generation runs low, he said.” [Record Searchlight, [5/07/15](#)]

### **Voted to Block Bureau of Reclamation From Buying Water to Increase Instream Flow to Help Fish**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for amendment to prohibit the buying of water for the purpose of enhancing river flow to help fish. “The House briefly debated at about 1:20 a.m. Friday, and eventually approved along nearly party lines, an amendment by Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif., that would block the Bureau of Reclamation from buying water for the purpose of supplementing river flows to help fish.” The amendment passed, 228 to 183. [HR 2028, [Vote #211](#), 5/01/15; Associated Press, [5/01/15](#)]

### **U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation Public Affairs Officer: Major Water Purchases Were Made To Meet Water Quality Standards**

“Rep. Tom McClintock’s amendment to forbid federal agencies from purchasing water during California’s catastrophic drought in order to release it into rivers to meet environmental requirements was adopted May 1 as part of the House of Representatives’ Fiscal Year 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations Act. The amendment was adopted on a vote of 226-9, and final passage of the Appropriations Act on a vote of 230-7. ... Public Affairs Officer Erin Curtis said the agency’s major water purchases in recent years have been on the San Joaquin River in order to comply with the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan intended to meet water quality standards at Vernalis, not far from where the Stanislaus River meets the San Joaquin River.” [Calaveras Enterprise, [5/08/15](#)]

### **U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation Public Affairs Officer: Bureau Required By Law To Release Water To Protect Water Quality, Fish And Wildlife**

“Curtis noted in an email that the bureau is required by a variety of environmental laws to release water to protect water quality as well as fish and wildlife. Among the beneficiaries of those releases are farms and cities that draw water from the San Joaquin River Delta.” [Calaveras Enterprise, [5/08/15](#)]

### **Farms And Cities Benefit From Releases**

“Among the beneficiaries of those releases are farms and cities that draw water from the San Joaquin River Delta.” [Calaveras Enterprise, [5/08/15](#)]

### **Calaveras Enterprise: “Flows From The Stanislaus River Help Dilute Salt Contamination That Would Otherwise Render Water In the Delta Unusable For Irrigation”**

“Rep. Tom McClintock’s amendment to forbid federal agencies from purchasing water during California’s catastrophic drought in order to release it into rivers to meet environmental requirements was adopted May 1 as part of the House of Representatives’ Fiscal Year 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations Act. ... Flows from the Stanislaus River help dilute salt contamination that would otherwise render water in the delta unusable for irrigation and more expensive to treat for drinking water.” [Calaveras Enterprise, [5/08/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Destroy the Habitat Program, Privatizing and Commercializing Wildlife and Hunting Opportunities**

In 2011, Zinke voted for a bill that would effectively destroy the Habitat Montana program, privatizing and commercializing wildlife and hunting opportunities. The bill reduced funding for the Habitat Montana program by 30% over a four year period, cutting in half the dollars available for the purchase of access for hunting. [HB 209, [4/11/11](#); Veto, [5/10/11](#); Montana Sportsmen Alliance, [2011 Scorecard](#)]

## REGULATORY REFORM

- ✓ Zinke voted against ensuring enforcement of laws protecting human health, the environment and public safety in a bill allowing for the export of crude oil
- ✓ He voted against amendments to the RAPID Act, a bill publicized as cutting regulation, which would bar the act from affecting permitting projects that could be terror targets or critical infrastructure, and against an amendment to state that nothing in the act should limit agencies from public comment or participation in decision making.
- ✓ He voted to require federal courts to impose monetary sanctions on those that file frivolous lawsuits.
- ✓ He also voted to require congressional approval of all executive agency “major rules.”
- ✓ He voted to require regulations and rule changes in the Affordable Care Act must be subject to congressional approval. He voted against amending the bill to provide exemption for the requirement rules that would increase jobs or govern pipelines carrying natural gas and hazardous materials or public health and safety regulations, etc.

### **Zinke Voted to Remove The Use Restrictions On Certain Land in Rockingham County, VA**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “LaMalfa, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would release deed restrictions on a one-acre portion of the property of Rockingham County, Va., that is authorized to be used for a child care facility, allowing the nonprofit operating the facility to obtain loans to make improvements to the property. The bill would specify that the other two acres would continue to be subject to the deed’s restrictions. Further, the bill would eliminate the current requirement in Rockingham Country to report biennially to the Secretary of the Interior about the use of the property.” The motion was agreed to 407-0. [CQ, [11/30/15](#); HR 2288, Vote 644, [11/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Require Each Publication Of The Federal Register To Include Studies & Cost-Benefit Analyses**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Young, R-Iowa, amendment that would require, for each publication in the Federal Register related to a rule that would be required under the measure, the inclusion by the agency of information on which the rule is based, including data, studies and cost-benefit analyses. It also would need to identify how the public can access the information online.” The amendment was adopted 236-192. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); Amdt. 10 to HR 22, Vote 617, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Ensuring Enforcement Of Laws Protecting Human Health, Environment, Or Public Safety**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to ensure nothing in HR 702, a bill that would allow for the export of crude oil, would prevent the “enforcement of federal laws that protect human health, the environment, and public safety.” The motion failed 179 to 242. [HR 702, [Vote #548](#), 10/09/15; Motion to Recommit, [10/09/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment Removing Automatic Project Approval In Absence Of Agency Decision Within 90-120 Days**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment “that would remove the bill’s provision that would automatically approve any project for which the reviewing agency does not make a decision within the bill’s

deadlines.” The bill stipulated a deadline of between 90 and 120 days. The amendment failed, 173 to 237. [HR 348, [Amendment #5 Vote #511](#), 9/25/15; CQ, [9/25/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment To Bar RAPID Act From Affecting Permitting Projects That Could Be Terror Targets, Critical Infrastructure**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act of 2015 that would “bar the bill’s provisions from affecting permitting projects that could be a potential target for a terrorist attack or that involve chemical facilities and other critical infrastructure.” The amendment failed 176 to 232. [HR 348, [Vote #515](#), 9/25/15; CQ, [9/25/15](#)]

### **RAPID Act Would Modify Environmental Review For Federally Funded Projects And Permits By Setting Deadlines On Agency Reviews, Limiting Grounds For Civil Actions Against Approvals**

“The Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act “modifies the environmental review process for federally funded projects and for federal permits for private projects by setting deadlines on agency reviews, and by limiting the grounds for civil actions filed against an environmental review or permit approval.” [CQ, [9/18/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment To State That Nothing In RAPID Act Would Limit Agencies From Public Comment Or Participation In Decision-Making**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act of 2015 which would “state that nothing the bill would limit agencies from allowing public comment or participation in the decision-making process.” The amendment failed 176 to 232. [HR 348, [Vote #516](#), 9/25/15; CQ, [9/25/15](#)]

### **RAPID Act Would Modify Environmental Review For Federally Funded Projects And Permits By Setting Deadlines On Agency Reviews, Limiting Grounds For Civil Actions Against Approvals**

The Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act “modifies the environmental review process for federally funded projects and for federal permits for private projects by setting deadlines on agency reviews, and by limiting the grounds for civil actions filed against an environmental review or permit approval.” [CQ, [9/18/15](#)]

### **Voted For Bill Aimed At Improving Attorney Accountability And Reducing Lawsuit Abuse**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2015. The bill “would change federal rules governing civil lawsuits to require federal courts to impose sanctions on parties that file frivolous civil lawsuits. The sanctions would need to include monetary payments to the other party to cover the other party’s attorney fees and costs. The bill also would eliminate the so-called ‘safe harbor’ clause by removing the ability of parties to withdraw of correct claims considered frivolous within 21 days of filing.” The bill passed 241 to 185. [HR 758, [Vote #501](#), 9/17/15; CQ, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Democratic Rep. Frankel: Bill Reinstates Procedural Rules; Strips Ability Of Federal Judges To Impose Sanctions Deemed Appropriate To Bring Frivolous Lawsuits**

“This misguided bill would reinstate procedural rules that failed thirty years ago, stripping federal judges of the ability to impose the sanctions they deem appropriate for bringing frivolous lawsuits. During the ten years the old rules were in effect, judges completely lost their discretion about whether or not to impose sanctions on attorneys and were forced to issue harsh penalties for even the smallest infractions. Heavy punishments under the old system lead to endless motions that clogged our already burdened legal system, preventing access to justice.” [Rep. Lois Frankel Statement, [9/22/15](#)]

### **Voted For Requiring Federal Courts To Impose Monetary Sanctions On Parties That File Frivolous Lawsuits**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that “would change federal rules governing civil lawsuits to require federal courts to impose sanctions on parties that file frivolous civil lawsuits. The sanctions would need to include monetary payments to the other party to cover the other party’s attorney fees and costs. The bill also would eliminate the so-called ‘safe harbor’ clause by removing the ability of parties to withdraw of correct claims considered frivolous within 21 days of filing.” The bill passed 241 to 185. [HR 758, [Vote #501](#), 9/17/15; CQ, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Require Congress Approve All Executive Agency “Major Rules”**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 380) that would provide for House floor consideration of HR 427, a bill that would amend the Congressional Review Act to require Congress to approve all executive agency regulatory proposals categorized as ‘major rules’ before their implementation and would also create an expedited consideration process for joint congressional resolutions of approval. The bill defines ‘major rules’ as regulations with an annual economic impact greater than \$100 million, and would not require congressional approval of regulations that are not categorized as ‘major rules’ or of rule proposals issued by the Federal Reserve or the Federal Open Market Committee.” The rule was adopted 240-167. [CQ, [7/28/15](#); H.Res. 380, Vote 471, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Hastings, D-Fla., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 380) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 427) that would amend the Congressional Review Act to require Congress to approve all executive agency regulatory proposals categorized as ‘major rules’ before their implementation and would also create an expedited consideration process for joint congressional resolutions of approval. The bill defines ‘major rules’ as regulations with an annual economic impact greater than \$100 million, and would not require congressional approval of regulations that are not categorized as ‘major rules’ or of rule proposals issued by the Federal Reserve or the Federal Open Market Committee.” The motion was agreed to 240-167. [CQ, [7/28/15](#); Previous Question to H.Res. 380, Vote 470, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Voted For An Amendment To Require Agencies To Publish Data On Proposed Executive Branch Rules**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the REINS Act that would “require agencies to publish information online on which [an executive branch] rule is based, including data, scientific and economic studies, and cost-benefit analyses, and make such information publically accessible.” The amendment was adopted 250-159. [HR 427, [Vote #473](#), 7/28/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Voted For To Require Regulations and Rule Changes In The Affordable Care Act Must Be Subject To Congressional Approval**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that would require “rule and regulations under the Affordable Care Act to be subject to the congressional approval process established in the bill.” The amendment passed, 242-167. [HR 427, [Vote #474](#); CQ Floor Votes, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Amendment Was To REINS Act Which Would Give “Congress The Final Say Over All Major Regulations”**

“The controversial regulatory reform bill, which the House will vote on later this week, would give Congress the final say over all major regulations. [...] The regulatory reform measure would give Congress final say over any rule with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more. Federal agencies would be required to submit major rules to Congress for approval before they could take effect. This would all but guarantee Republicans the ability to block dozens of controversial rules from the Obama administration and drastically slow the pace of regulations.” [The Hill, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Exempting From Requirement For Congressional Approval Rules That Would Increase Jobs**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would exempt rules that the Office of Management and Budget determined would increase jobs from the congressional approval process established in the bill.” The amendment failed, 163-246. [HR 427, [Vote #475](#); CQ Floor Votes, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Amendment Was To REINS Act Which Would Give “Congress The Final Say Over All Major Regulations”**

“The controversial regulatory reform bill, which the House will vote on later this week, would give Congress the final say over all major regulations. [...]The regulatory reform measure would give Congress final say over any rule with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more. Federal agencies would be required to submit major rules to Congress for approval before they could take effect. This would all but guarantee Republicans the ability to block dozens of controversial rules from the Obama administration and drastically slow the pace of regulations.” [The Hill, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Exempting From Requirement For Congressional Approval Rules Governing Pipelines Carrying Natural Gas and Hazardous Materials**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would exempt rules intended to ensure the safety of natural gas or hazardous materials pipelines from the Congressional approval process outlined in the bill.” The amendment failed, 166-244. [HR 427, [Vote #476](#); CQ Floor Votes, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Amendment Was To REINS Act Which Would Give “Congress The Final Say Over All Major Regulations”**

“The controversial regulatory reform bill, which the House will vote on later this week, would give Congress the final say over all major regulations. [...]The regulatory reform measure would give Congress final say over any rule with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more. Federal agencies would be required to submit major rules to Congress for approval before they could take effect. This would all but guarantee Republicans the ability to block dozens of controversial rules from the Obama administration and drastically slow the pace of regulations.” [The Hill, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Exempting Public Health And Safety Regulations From Congressional Approval On Major Rule Changes**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would exempt rules pertaining to public health and safety from the Congressional approval process outlined in the bill.” The amendment failed, 166-242. [HR 427, [Vote #477](#); CQ Floor Votes, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Amendment Was To REINS Act Which Would Give “Congress The Final Say Over All Major Regulations”**

“The controversial regulatory reform bill, which the House will vote on later this week, would give Congress the final say over all major regulations. [...]The regulatory reform measure would give Congress final say over any rule with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more. Federal agencies would be required to submit major rules to Congress for approval before they could take effect. This would all but guarantee Republicans the ability to block dozens of controversial rules from the Obama administration and drastically slow the pace of regulations.” [The Hill, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Exempting Product Safety Regulations Intended To Protect Children Under Two From Congressional Approval On Major Rules Changes**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would exempt rules pertaining to the safety of any product designed for children under two from the Congressional approval process outlined in the bill.” The amendment failed, 167-243. [HR 427, [Vote #478](#); CQ Floor Votes, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Amendment Was To REINS Act Which Would Give “Congress The Final Say Over All Major Regulations”**

“The controversial regulatory reform bill, which the House will vote on later this week, would give Congress the final say over all major regulations. [...]The regulatory reform measure would give Congress final say over any rule with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more. Federal agencies would be required to submit major rules to Congress for approval before they could take effect. This would all but guarantee Republicans the ability to block dozens of controversial rules from the Obama administration and drastically slow the pace of regulations.” [The Hill, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Exempting Safety Regulations For Nuclear Reactors From Congressional Approval On Major Rule Changes**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would exempt any rule relating to nuclear reactor safety standards from the Congressional approval process outlined in the bill.” The amendment failed, 167-241. [HR 427, [Vote #479](#); CQ Floor Votes, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Amendment Was To REINS Act Which Would Give “Congress The Final Say Over All Major Regulations”**

“The controversial regulatory reform bill, which the House will vote on later this week, would give Congress the final say over all major regulations. [...]The regulatory reform measure would give Congress final say over any rule with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more. Federal agencies would be required to submit major rules to Congress for approval before they could take effect. This would all but guarantee Republicans the ability to block dozens of controversial rules from the Obama administration and drastically slow the pace of regulations.” [The Hill, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Exempting Rules Changes Regarding Availability Of Medication & Healthcare Management For Veterans From Requirement For Congressional Approval**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that “would exempt rules issued by the Veterans Affairs Department relating to the availability of medication and healthcare management for veterans from the Congressional approval process outlined in the bill.” The amendment failed, 167-239. [HR 427, [Vote #480](#); CQ Floor Votes, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Amendment Was To REINS Act Which Would Give “Congress The Final Say Over All Major Regulations”**

“The controversial regulatory reform bill, which the House will vote on later this week, would give Congress the final say over all major regulations. [...]The regulatory reform measure would give Congress final say over any rule with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more. Federal agencies would be required to submit major rules to Congress for approval before they could take effect. This would all but guarantee Republicans the ability to block dozens of controversial rules from the Obama administration and drastically slow the pace of regulations.” [The Hill, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Motion To Protect The Regulatory Process For Social Security And Medicare**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to exempt rulemaking for Social Security and Medicare from the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act which would require congressional approval for new rules written by federal agencies. The motion failed 167 to 241. [HR 427, [Vote #481](#), 7/28/15; Motion to Recommit, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Voted For Bill To Stifle Government’s Ability To Enact Rules To Protect Americans**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act, “a bid to roll back the executive branch’s rulemaking authority ... Democrats fear the legislation would pave the way for Republicans to block what they believe to be much-needed public health and environmental protections. Rep.

Hank Johnson (D-Ga.) said the REINS Act is a ‘gift to the economic elites’ that would ‘stop all future regulations.’” The bill passed 243 to 165. [HR 427, [Vote #482](#), 7/28/15; The Hill, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported the Act Because It Was “A Critical Tool In Stopping This Backdoor Taxing And Overreach Of The Federal Government.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted in favor of H.R. 427, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015 or REINS Act. REINS requires that any new major regulation will have to be voted on by Congress and signed by the President. A ‘major regulation’ is defined as any regulation having an economic impact of \$100 million or more. A bipartisan majority of the House approved the measure 243-165. ‘One of the founding pillars of our nation was ‘no taxation without representation’ and yet, that’s exactly what the administration is doing every time they implement a new costly rule or regulation that bypasses Congress. The REINS Act is a critical tool in stopping this backdoor taxing and overreach of the federal government,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘For example, just a few months ago, the EPA released the Waters of the United States regulations which are estimated to cost taxpayers up to \$465 million annually, according to the administration’s own estimates. Under the REINS Act, the EPA, and all other executive branch agencies, would be required to submit regulations like WOTUS through Congress.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “The REINS Act Is An Important Step In Reining In The Reach And Size Of The Federal Government And Finally Ending The Backdoor Taxing That Is Rampant In Washington.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted in favor of H.R. 427, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015 or REINS Act. REINS requires that any new major regulation will have to be voted on by Congress and signed by the President. A ‘major regulation’ is defined as any regulation having an economic impact of \$100 million or more. A bipartisan majority of the House approved the measure 243-165. [...] ‘Unelected Washington bureaucrats who don’t know the difference between Butte, Bozeman or Winnett should not be making costly and disastrous rules that negatively impact Butte, Bozeman and Winnett. The REINS Act is an important step in reining in the reach and size of the federal government and finally ending the backdoor taxing that is rampant in Washington.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for the SEC to Revise Form S-1 to Permit a Smaller Reporting Company to Incorporate More Easily**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Luetkemeyer, R-Mo., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the SEC, within 45 days of enactment, to revise Form S-1 to permit a smaller reporting company to incorporate by reference any information in Form S-1 with any further documents the company later files with the commission.” The motion was agreed 426-0. [CQ, [7/14/15](#); H.R. 1723, Vote 437, [7/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For Consideration Of Bill Opposed By Trucker Safety Groups That Eliminated Industry Safety Regulations**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 2557 and H.R. 2578. According to CQ Bill Track, “A resolution providing for consideration of HR 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2015, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of HR 2578, bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science and related agencies for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2015, and for other purposes.” According to the Hill, “The House is scheduled to vote Tuesday on a \$55 billion Republican funding bill for the departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development. The measure, which is known as THUD, provides \$55.3 billion in funding the departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, which is a \$1.5 billion increase over the agencies’ current 2015 spending levels.” The bill passed 242 to 180. [H. Res. 287, [Vote #268](#), 6/02/15; CQ Bill Track, [6/01/15](#); The Hill, [6/09/15](#)]

### **Appropriations Bill Opposed By Trucker Safety Groups For Eliminating Industry Safety Regulations**

“President Obama is threatening to veto a \$55 billion Republican funding bill for the departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development. The White House said Tuesday that Obama would reject the measure, which is known as THUD, on the grounds that it underfunds federal transportation and housing programs, and includes a number of policy riders involving travel restrictions between the U.S. and Cuba, and truck driver scheduling. ... Truck safety groups have accused GOP lawmakers of using the appropriations process to undo a series of trucking regulations they say makes U.S. roads safer, including limits on the length and weight of trucks. Trucking companies have opposed these limits for years.” [The Hill, [6/02/15](#)]

### **Voted For Increasing Review Of SBA Regulations, Expand Right To Challenge New Rules**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015 to “give the Small Business Administration more authority to ensure federal agencies grant small businesses flexibility in following regulations... Under the bill, the SBA would have new authority to ensure agencies comply with the law’s regulatory review requirements, including by getting more directly involved with agency reviews of proposed rules. It would expand the ability of small businesses and other small entities affected by an agency’s regulations to legally challenge those rules.” The bill passed 260 to 163. [HR 527, [Vote #68](#), 2/05/15; CQ News, [2/05/15](#)]

### **Voted For Requiring Agency Rulemakers To Consider Low-Income Populations**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment “that would require agencies to review the potential effects of new rules on low-income populations.” The amendment passed 254 to 168. [HR 185, [Vote #23](#), 1/13/15; The Hill, [1/13/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Resolution to Study Montana’s Marriage Laws**

In April 2009, Zinke voted against a House Joint Resolution to study Montana’s marriage laws, which were being examined because marriage rates in Montana had fallen and births to unwed mothers had risen significantly. The resolution failed (23-27). [[HJR 31](#), [4/17/09](#)]

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ✓ He voted for new restrictions for the National Science Foundation grants, including worthiness of federal funding and “national interest.”
- ✓ He voted for passage of the \$51.4 billion FY 2016 Dept of Commerce and Justice Budget, which included funding for NASA and NIST.
- ✓ **CYBER SECURITY:** He voted to authorize the FY 2016-16 U.S. Government Intelligence Agencies and Intelligence-Related Activities budget. He voted for the voluntary sharing of cyber threat information between the private sector and the federal government. He voted for the National CyberSecurity Advancement Act.
- ✓ **RESEARCH:** He voted to make the NIH and Cures Innovation Fund discretionary. He voted for \$32.9 billion for scientific research at the NSF, NIST, Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Energy Department. He voted to cut scientific and climate change research.

### **Zinke Voted to Require NSF Award New Grants Based on National Interest**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would require the National Science Foundation (NSF) to award new grants for basic research and science education only if the foundation determines that the grant promotes the progress of science, is ‘worthy’ of federal funding, and is in the national interest. To be considered to be in the national interest, the grant would need to potentially enhance economic competitiveness, advance the health or welfare of Americans, develop a STEM workforce, or meet other characteristics specified in the bill. As amended, the bill would specify that computer science and information technology are sectors included in the STEM workforce. Also as amended, the bill would require additional determinations from the NSF that new grants are consistent with established and widely accepted scientific methods applicable to the field of study, and that they are consistent with the definition of basic research within the field of study.” The bill passed by 236-178. [CQ, [2/10/16](#), H.R. 3293, Vote 70, [2/10/16](#)]

### **Democrats Warned Bill Could Threaten Social Science Research, & White House Issued Veto Threat & Confusing Language Would Cause Problems**

“Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (Texas), the top Democrat on the Science panel, warned that the measure would threaten research into fields like social science that yield valuable scientific data. She offered an example of what she described as ‘surely one of the silliest-sounding titles for research that could possibly be’: the sex life of the screw worm. The research was mocked in the Senate floor in the 1970s, but she noted that costs for the cattle industry - and beef consumers - went down after the data offered insight into eliminating the pest. ‘Some of the greatest scientific achievements of the past 60 years were the results of funny-sounding research,’ Johnson said. The White House issued a veto threat against the measure, warning in a Statement of Administration Policy that it would add ‘bureaucratic burdens’ at the NSF ‘with confusing language that could cast a shadow over the value of basic research.’” [The Hill, Floor Action, [2/10/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Declaring That New Requirements for NSF Grants Were Fulfilled By Having Met NSF’s Merit Review Criteria**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against a: “Johnson, D-Texas, amendment that would provide for the bill’s requirement that the National Science Foundation (NSF) determine that a grant is worthy of federal funding to be fulfilled by having met the NSF’s merit review criteria.” The amendment was rejected 181-235. [CQ, [2/10/16](#), H.Amdt. 929 to H.R. 3293, Vote 68, [2/10/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Declaring That Research Into Gun Violence Would Fulfill NSF Grant National Interest Requirement**

In February 2016, Zinke voted against an: “Edwards, D-Md., motion to recommit the bill to the House Science, Space and Technology Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would allow research grants that have the potential to increase understanding of the causes and prevention of gun violence to fulfill the bill’s requirement for the National Science Foundation to determine new grants are in the ‘national interest.’” The motion was rejected 177-241. [CQ, [2/10/16](#), H.R. 3293, Vote 69, [2/10/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prevent Commerce Dept From Relinquishing Internet Domain Name Assignments**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Shimkus, R-Ill., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would prohibit the Commerce Department from relinquishing the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA’s) responsibility over the assignment of Internet domain names until 30 legislative days after it receives a certification from the NTIA that such actions will not degrade Internet openness and governance.” The motion passed by 378-25. [CQ, [6/23/15](#), H.R. 805, Vote 377, [6/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for \$51.4B FY2016 Dept. Of Commerce & DOJ Budget, Including NASA & NIST**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would provide \$51.4 billion in discretionary funds in fiscal 2016 for the departments of Commerce and Justice and other agencies such as NASA and the National Science Foundation. It would provide roughly \$8.2 billion for the Commerce Department and roughly \$27.9 billion for the Justice Department, including \$8.5 billion for the FBI, \$7.2 billion for the federal prison system and roughly \$2 billion for state and local enforcement and crime prevention grant programs. The bill would provide \$18.5 billion for NASA, \$7.4 billion for the National Science Foundation, roughly \$5.2 billion for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and \$3.3 billion for the Patent and Trademark Office.” The bill was passed by a vote of 242-183. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.R. 2578, Vote 297, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Reduce Funding For The Legal Services Corporation While Increasing Funding For FBI Salaries And Expenses By \$25 Million**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Pittenger, R-N.C., amendment that would increase by \$25 million the amount that would be provided for FBI salaries and expenses, and would be offset by an equal reduction to the Legal Services Corporation.” The amendment failed 163-263. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 294 to H.R. 2578, Vote 275, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit Funds Appropriated By Any Measure From Being Used To Transfer Guantanamo Bay Detainees To The U.S.**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Nadler, D-N.Y., amendment that would remove a section of the bill that would prohibit funds appropriated by any measure from being used to transfer detainees located at the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States.” The amendment failed 170-256. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 305 to H.R. 2578, Vote 276, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funds From Being Used To Facilitate, Permit, License, Or Promote Exports To The Cuban Military Or Intelligence Service**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Farr, D-Calif., amendment that would remove a section of the bill that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used to facilitate, permit, license or promote exports to the Cuban military or intelligence service, or to any officer or immediate family member of the Cuban military or intelligence service.” The amendment failed 153-273. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 308 to H.R. 2578, Vote 277, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For A 1% Across-The-Board Spending Reduction In The Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill, Exempting The FBI**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Blackburn, R-Tenn., amendment that would reduce spending in the bill by one percent across-the-board, except for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, fees and expenses of witnesses in the

Justice Department, public safety officer benefits and the United States Trustee System Fund.” The amendment failed 168-275. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 313 to H.R. 2578, Vote 278, [6/4/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted Against Funding The Experimental Program To Stimulate Competitive Research Program**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Foster, D-Ill., amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used to fund any Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research program.” The amendment failed 195-232. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 317 to H.R. 2578, Vote 279, [6/4/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted Against Allowing Justice Department Funds In The Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill To Be Used To Prevent A State From Implementing Its Own Laws That Authorize The Use, Distribution, Possession Or Cultivation Of Industrial Hemp**

In June 2015, Zinke vote for a: “Bonamici, D-Ore., amendment that would bar Justice Department funds made available by the bill from being used to prevent a state from implementing its own state laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession or cultivation of industrial hemp.” The amendment was adopted 282-146. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt.321 to H.R. 2578, Vote 280, [6/3/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted For Allowing Funds In The Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill To Be Used To Award Contracts To Contractors Who Have Violated The Fair Labor Standards Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Ellison, D-Minn., amendment that would bar the use of funds made available by the bill to award contracts to contractors who have violated the Fair Labor Standards Act.” The amendment was rejected 184-244. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt.324 to H.R. 2578, Vote 281, [6/3/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted Against Allowing Justice Department Funds In The Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill To Be Used To Prevent 39 States, District Of Columbia, And Guam From Implementing Their Own Laws That Authorize Use, Distribution, Possession Or Cultivation Of Medical Marijuana**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Rohrabacher, R-Calif., amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill for the Justice Department from being used with respect to 39 states - Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin - or with respect to either the District of Columbia or Guam to prevent them from implementing their own laws that authorize use, distribution, possession of cultivation of medical marijuana.” The amendment was adopted 242-186. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt.332 to H.R. 2578, Vote 283, [6/3/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Bar Funds In The Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill To Be Used To Compel A Person To Testify About Information Or Sources The Person States In A Motion To Quash The Subpoena That He Has Obtained As A Journalist And That He Regards As Confidential**

In June 2015, Zinke vote for a: “Grayson, D-Fla., amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used to compel a person to testify about information or sources the person states in a motion to quash the subpoena that he has obtained as a journalist and that he regards as confidential.” The amendment was adopted 245-182. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt.333 to H.R. 2578, Vote 284, [6/3/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted For Allowing Justice Department Funds In The Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill To Be Used To Prevent 39 States From Implementing Their Own Laws That Authorize Use, Distribution, Possession, Or Cultivation Of Marijuana On Non-Federal Lands Within Their Respective Jurisdictions**

In June 2015, Zinke vote against a: “McClintock, R-Calif., amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill for the Justice Department from being used with respect to 39 states - Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana,

Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin - to prevent them from implementing their own laws that authorize use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of marijuana on non-federal lands within their respective jurisdictions.” The amendment was rejected 206-222. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt.334 to H.R. 2578, Vote 285, [6/3/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit The Federal Government From Preventing The Possession, Distribution, And Use Of Cannabidiol Or Cannabidiol Oil In States Where It Is Legal**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Perry, R-Pa., amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used to prevent a state from implementing any law that makes it legal to possess, distribute or use cannabidiol or cannabidiol oil.” The amendment was agreed to 297-130. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 335 to H.R. 2578, Vote 286, [6/3/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit The Department Of Justice From Using The “Disparate Impact” Theory When Enforcing The Fair Housing Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Garrett, R-N.J., amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used by the Justice Department to enforce the Fair Housing Act in a manner that relies on an allegation of liability based on a practice’s discriminatory effect, even if the practice was not motivated by discriminatory intent.” The amendment was agreed to 232-196. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 337 to H.R. 2578, Vote 287, [6/3/15](#)]

#### **The Amendment Would Prohibit The Government From Alleging Discrimination Based Solely On Analyses That Find Disproportionate Results Among Different Groups Of People, Regardless Of Evidence Of Discriminatory Actions Or Intent**

“Later this summer, the housing industry will see how the Supreme Court of the United States rules on the use of the theory of ‘disparate impact’ in mortgage lending, but one Congressman is pushing to limit the government’s use of the shaky legal theory regardless of the ruling and well beyond housing policy. In Texas Dept. of Housing vs. Inclusive Communities Project, the Texas Department of Housing argues that the text and history of the law confirm that fair housing law does not allow disparate impact claims, but instead authorizes only claims based on intentionally discriminatory conduct. The Supreme Court heard the case this past spring and should announce its ruling soon. Meanwhile, though, Rep. Scott Garrett, R-N.J., authored and pushed a measure to limit disparate impact prosecutions. The House passed his amendment to H.R. 2578, the Fiscal Year 2016 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act. The amendment would bar the Department of Justice from using funds for litigation in which they seek to apply disparate impact theory. [...] Disparate impact liability allows the government to allege discrimination on the basis of race or other factors based solely on statistical analyses that find disproportionate results among different groups of people, regardless of evidence of actual discriminatory actions or intent.” [Housing Wire, [6/3/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit The Federal Government From Preventing Higher Education Institutions Or State Agriculture Departments To Grow Industrial Hemp For Research In States Where It Is Legal**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Massie, R-Ky., amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used by the Justice Department or the Drug Enforcement Administration in contravention of a section of existing law that allows higher education institutions or state departments of agriculture to grow industrial hemp for research purposes and if growing the industrial hemp is allowed by the laws of the state where the research occurs and the institution is located.” The amendment was agreed to 289-132. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 340 to H.R. 2578, Vote 288, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit The Federal Government From Classifying Ammunition As Armor-Piercing Under Chapter 44 Of Title 18 In U.S. Code Except For Ammunition Used In Handguns**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Massie, R-Ky., amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used to treat ammunition as armor-piercing for purposes of chapter 44 of title 18 of United States Code, except for ammunition designed and intended to be used in a handgun.” The amendment was agreed to 250-171. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 341 to H.R. 2578, Vote 289, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit The National Institute Of Standards And Technology To Work With The National Security Agency Or The Central Intelligence Agency To Alter Cryptography Or Computer Standards Unless It Is To Improve Information Security**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Massie, R-Ky., amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used by the National Institute of Standards and Technology to consult with the National Security Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency to alter cryptography or computer standards, except to improve information security.” The amendment was agreed to 383-43. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 342 to H.R. 2578, Vote 290, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Implementation Of The National Ocean Policy**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Flores, R-Texas, amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used to implement Executive Order 13547, including the National Ocean Policy developed under the executive order.” The amendment was agreed to 236-190. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt. 346 to H.R. 2578, Vote 291, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Reduce The Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations By 2.48 Percent Across The Board**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Sanford, R-S.C., amendment that would reduce the bill’s funding level by 2.48 percent across-the-board, except for amounts required to be made available by a provision of law.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 134-290. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt.349 to H.R. 2578, Vote 292, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Funding For The Justice Department To Fight A States’ Challenge To The President’s Executive Action**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “King, R-Iowa, amendment that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used with respect to the case State of Texas, et al. v. United States of America, et al., in which 26 states are suing the Obama administration over its executive actions on immigration.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 222-204. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt.350 to H.R. 2578, Vote 293, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit Use Of State And Local Law Enforcement Assistance In Contravention Of The Immigration Reform And Immigrant Responsibility Act Of 1996**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “King, R-Iowa, amendment that would bar funds made available in the bill for Office of Justice Programs state and local law enforcement assistance from being used in contravention of existing law that bars federal, state or local governments or officials from prohibiting or restricting in any way any government entity or official from sending information regarding citizenship or immigration status of any individual to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 227-198. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt.352 to H.R. 2578, Vote 294, [6/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funds From Being Used On Any Existing Recovery Plan For Salmon And Steelhead Populations Listed Under The Endangered Species Act Of 1973 If That Recovery Plan Does Not Address Predation By Non-Native Species**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Denham, R-Calif., that would bar funds made available by the bill from being used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to implement in the California Central Valley Recovery Domain any existing recovery plan for salmon and steelhead populations listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as threatened or endangered species if that recovery plan does not address

predation by non-native species.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 245-181. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.Amdt.354 to H.R. 2578, Vote 295, [6/3/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Providing An Additional \$3 Million For The Violence Against Women Prevention And Prosecution Programs, \$3 Million For The Juvenile Justice Programs And Decreasing The Justice Information Technology Account By \$6 Million**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Brownley, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would provide an additional \$3 million for sexual assault victims assistance within the Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs account and an additional \$3 million for missing and exploited children programs in the Juvenile Justice Programs account. It would decrease funding for the Justice Information Technology Account by \$6 million.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 184-240. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.R. 2578, Vote 296, [6/3/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Provide \$51.4 Billion In Discretionary Funds In Fiscal 2016 For The Departments Of Commerce And Justice And Other Agencies Such As NASA And The National Science Foundation**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would provide \$51.4 billion in discretionary funds in fiscal 2016 for the departments of Commerce and Justice and other agencies such as NASA and the National Science Foundation. It would provide roughly \$8.2 billion for the Commerce Department and roughly \$27.9 billion for the Justice Department, including \$8.5 billion for the FBI, \$7.2 billion for the federal prison system and roughly \$2 billion for state and local enforcement and crime prevention grant programs. The bill would provide \$18.5 billion for NASA, \$7.4 billion for the National Science Foundation, roughly \$5.2 billion for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and \$3.3 billion for the Patent and Trademark Office.” The bill was passed by a vote of 242-183. [CQ, [6/3/15](#); H.R. 2578, Vote 297, [6/3/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Extending Through 2020 The General Moratorium On The FAA’s Ability To Issue Regulations Related To Commercial Spaceflights And The Government Indemnification Of The Commercial Space Launch Industry**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Edwards, D-Md., substitute amendment that would replace the bill with a measure that would extend the general moratorium on the Federal Aviation Administration’s ability to issue regulations related to commercial spaceflight crew and passenger safety until Oct. 1, 2020, and would extend government indemnification of the commercial space launch industry through 2020.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 173-236. [CQ, [5/21/15](#), Edwards Amdt. 7 to H.R. 2262, Vote 261, [5/21/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Establish A Legal Framework For Commercial Exploration And Utilization Of Space Resources, And Extend Through 2025 The General Moratorium On The FAA’s Ability To Issue Regulations Related To Commercial Spaceflights And The Federal Indemnification Of Commercial Space Launch Companies Against Third-Party Claims Associated With Launch Accidents**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would extend until Dec. 31, 2025 the general moratorium on the Federal Aviation Administration’s ability to issue regulations related to commercial spaceflight crew and passenger safety, but would provide for adoption before that time of industry-supported voluntary consensus standards. It also would extend through 2025 federal indemnification of commercial space launch companies against third-party claims associated with launch accidents. As amended, the bill would require the president to facilitate and promote the commercial exploration and utilization of space resources and would establish a legal framework for such activities, including stating that asteroid resources obtained in outer space would be the property of the entity that obtained such resources.” The bill passed by a vote of 284-133. [CQ, [5/21/15](#), H.R. 2262, Vote 262, [5/21/15](#)]

## **Zinke Urged FCC To Ensure Rural Consumers Have The Same Choice As Urban Areas Among Telecom Services**

“Today, Congressman Kevin Cramer submitted a bi-partisan letter signed by 115 Members of Congress to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) urging the FCC to move forward on reforms to the Universal Service Fund (USF) to ensure consumers in areas served by small, rate-of-return providers have the same choice among reasonably comparable telecom services at reasonably comparable rates available to consumers in urban areas. Under current rules, when a customer buys traditional voice services (with or without broadband services) from a rural telephone company, the company is eligible for USF support. However, if a customer “cuts the cord” of traditional phone service in favor of wireless or Internet-based phone services, rural communities served by smaller telecommunication providers lose access to USF broadband support.” Zinke signed the letter. [Office of Rep. Cramer, Press Release, [5/12/15](#)]

## **CYBER SECURITY**

### **Zinke Voted To Authorize FY 2016 - 16 U.S. Government Intelligence Agencies & Intelligence-Related Activities**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of a bill that would authorize classified amounts in FY 2016 for 16 U.S. intelligence agencies and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. government, including the Office of the National Intelligence Director, the CIA and the National Security Agency (NSA), as well as foreign intelligence activities of the Defense Department, FBI, State Department, Homeland Security Department and other agencies. The measure covers general intelligence operations, including signals intelligence, clandestine human intelligence programs and analysis, and covert action programs, as well as research and development and projects to improve information dissemination.” The bill was passed 246-178. [CQ, [6/16/15](#); H.R. 2596, Vote 369, [6/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring DNI Share Information About Threats Used By Terrorists To Evade Airport Screening, Etc.**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Dingell, D-Mich., motion to recommit the bill to the House Select Intelligence Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would require the Director of National Intelligence to share with all appropriate federal agencies information threats used by terrorists to evade airport screening and to update the terrorist watch list. In addition, the amendment requires the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the heads of each element of the intelligence community, to prioritize efforts and dedicate sufficient resources to uncover and foil attempts to steal the private personal information of U.S. citizens.” The motion was rejected 183-240. [CQ, [6/16/15](#); H.R. 2596, Vote 368, [6/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for Voluntary Sharing Of Info About Cyber Threats in Private Sector & Federal Government**

In April 2015 Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill promote the voluntary sharing of cyberthreat information among private companies and between the private sector and federal government. The bill would provide liability protections to companies that share cyberthreat information and would require that all personally identifiable information be removed from information that is shared. It would also establish a Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center within the director of National Intelligence’s Office. As amended, the provisions of the bill would sunset after seven years.” The bill passed 307-116. [CQ, [4/22/15](#); HR.1560, Vote 170, [4/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Clarifying Agencies Prioritize The Sharing Of Cyber Threat Indicators Regarding Known Terrorist Orgs**

In April 2015 Zinke voted against: “Rice, D-N.Y., motion to recommit the bill to the House Select Intelligence Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would add language to clarify that appropriate agencies prioritize the sharing of cyber threat indicators regarding known terrorist organizations and attempts to steal U.S. military technology by state-sponsored computer hackers.” The motion was rejected 183-239. [CQ, [4/22/15](#); HR.1560, Vote 169, [4/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Sunset The Provisions Of The HR.1560 After Seven Years**

In April 2015 Zinke voted for: “Mulvaney, R-S.C., amendment that would sunset the provisions of the bill after seven years.” The amendment was adopted 313-110. [CQ, [4/22/15](#); HR.1560, Vote 168, [4/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For National CyberSecurity Advancement Act**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would promote the voluntary sharing of information about cyberthreats among private companies and between the private sector and federal government. The bill would provide liability protections to companies that share cyberthreat information. It would also establish the Homeland Security Department’s National Cybersecurity and Communication Integration Center as the lead federal agency in receiving and exchanging cyberthreat information with other federal agencies and private companies. The provisions of the bill would sunset after seven years.” The measure passed 355-63. [CQ, [4/23/15](#); H.R. 1731, Vote 173, [4/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Require DHS To Submit A Report To Congress on CyberSecurity & Privacy/Civil Liberties**

In April 2015, Zinke voted in support of: “Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment that would require the Homeland Security Department to issue a report to Congress on the best means for aligning federally funded cybersecurity research and development with private sector efforts to protect privacy and civil liberties while also protecting the nation’s critical infrastructure.” The measure passed 405-8. [CQ, [4/23/15](#); H.R. 1731, Vote 171, [4/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Sending The National CyberSecurity Advancement Act Back to Clarify Provisions**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against: “Israel, D-N.Y., motion to recommit the bill to the House Homeland Security Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would clarify the protection of infrastructure, jobs and health information from cyberattacks. The amendment would direct the secretary of Homeland Security conduct ongoing risk-informed outreach to the owners and operators of at-risk critical infrastructure.” The motion failed 180-238. [CQ, [4/23/15](#); H.R. 1731, Vote 172, [4/23/15](#)]

## **RESEARCH**

### **Voted For An Amendment Which Would Make NIH And Cures Innovation Fund Discretionary**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for an “amendment that would change the mandatory funding for the new National Institute of Health and Cures Innovation Fund to an authorization of discretionary appropriations.” The amendment failed, 141 to 281. [HR 6, [Vote #431](#), 7/10/15; CQ Floor Votes, [7/10/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Banning Funds For The Experimental Program To Stimulate Competitive Research**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, that “amendment to prohibit the use of funds to fund any Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) program.” The amendment failed 195-232. [HR 2578, [Vote #279](#), 6/03/15]

### **The EPSCoR Program Was Funded To Advance Discovery And Knowledge In Scientific Fields**

“The mission of EPSCoR is to assist the National Science Foundation in its statutory function ‘to strengthen research and education in science and engineering throughout the United States and to avoid undue concentration of such research and education.’ EPSCoR goals are: a) to provide strategic programs and opportunities for EPSCoR participants that stimulate sustainable improvements in their R&D capacity and competitiveness; b) to advance science and engineering capabilities in EPSCoR jurisdictions for discovery, innovation and overall knowledge-based prosperity.” [National Science Foundation, accessed [8/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for \$32.9B for Scientific Research at NSF, NIST, Office of Science & Tech. Policy, & Energy Dept.**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would authorize \$32.9 billion over fiscal 2016 and fiscal 2017 for a number of agencies that support scientific research, industrial innovation and certain educational activities. Within that total, the bill would annually authorize for those two fiscal years: \$7.6 billion for the National Science Foundation, roughly \$7.9 billion for various Energy Department activities, \$939 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology and \$5 million for the Office of Science and Technology Policy.” The bill passed by 217-205. [CQ, [5/20/15](#), H.R. 1806, Vote 258, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring NSF Grants Be Awarded Only If In The National Interest**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Foster, D-Ill., amendment that would remove a section of the bill that would allow the National Science Foundation to award new grants only if it determines that the grants are worthy of federal funding and are in the national interest and a written justification for how the grant meets those requirements is published.” The amendment was rejected by 177-234. [CQ, [5/20/15](#), H.Amdt.244 to H.R. 1806, Vote 252, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment Allowing Energy Department To Verify Scientific Results With Additional Study**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act that would have allowed the Department of Energy to verify scientific results in climate research through additional research by striking provisions from the bill, which blocked duplicative projects in climate change research. “The amendment would have struck from the bill provisions placing added reporting requirements on research funded by the Energy Department and eliminating duplicative projects in climate change research. Lowenthal said duplicative research projects were necessary to reproduce and verify previously published science, but the bill provisions would block such research, and also curtail the Energy Department’s ability to choose to fund projects based on their merits.” The amendment failed 187 to 236. [HR 1806, [H.Amdt. 250](#), [Vote #254](#), 5/20/15; Portland Press Herald [5/24/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Funding Bioenergy Research Program To Fund Commercial Biofuels For Defense Purposes**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Bonamici, D-Ore., amendment that would remove a provision in the bill that would bar funds authorized for an Energy Department bioenergy research program from being used to fund commercial biofuels production for defense purposes.” The amendment was rejected by 208-215. [CQ, [5/20/15](#), H.Amdt.252 to H.R. 1806, Vote 255, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Remove ARPA-E Research Goals For Technology That Would Reduce Foreign Energy Imports, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, And Improve Energy Efficiency**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against a: “DeSaulnier, D-Calif., amendment that would strike a provision in the bill that would remove from goals specified in current law for Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) the development of energy technologies that result in reductions of imports of energy from foreign sources; reductions of energy-related emissions, including greenhouse gases; and improvement in the energy efficiency of all economic sectors.” The amendment was rejected by 190-232. [CQ, [5/20/15](#), H.Amdt.253 to H.R. 1806, Vote 256, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Increasing Funding For NSF, NIST, Energy Dept. Office Of Science, & ARPA-E**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Johnson, D-Texas, substitute amendment that would authorize five percent year-over-year increases for three major science agencies for fiscal years 2016 through 2020, including a total of \$42.5 billion for the National Science Foundation, a total of \$7.3 billion for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, \$29.5 billion for the Energy Department Office of Science and a total of \$1.8 billion for Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy.” The amendment was rejected by 179-239. [CQ, [5/20/15](#), H.Amdt.254 to H.R. 1806, Vote 257, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Make R&D Tax Credit Permanent & Change Way The Credit Was Calculated**

In May 2015, ZINKE voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would make permanent the research and development tax credit that expired at the end of calendar year 2014, and would change the way elements of the credit are calculated. For the credit for qualified research expenses, the measure would eliminate the traditional calculation for the 20 percent qualified research credit, and increase the alternative simplified credit to 20 percent of the amount qualified expenses exceed 50 percent of average qualified expenses for the preceding three tax years. For the basic research credit, the measure would provide that the 20 percent credit would be based on basic research payments that exceed 50 percent of the average basic research payments for the three preceding tax years.” The bill passed by 274-145. [CQ, [5/20/15](#), H.R. 880, Vote 260, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Extending R&D Tax Credit for 2 Years Instead Of Making It Permanent**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Neal, D-Mass., motion to recommit the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would remove the bill’s proposal to make permanent the research and development tax credit that expired at the end of calendar year 2014, and change the way elements of the credit are calculated. The bill would replace those provisions with language that would extend the credit for two years and would state that the bill shall not result in increasing the deficit or delaying or weakening efforts to adopt a permanent extension of the research credit in a ‘fiscally responsible manner.’” The motion failed by 181-240. [CQ, [5/20/15](#), H.R. 880, Vote 259, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Voted For Bill That Contained Cuts For Scientific And Climate Change Research**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, which contained targeted cuts for Department of Energy funding aimed at limiting scientific and climate change research. “On Wednesday, the House passed a new iteration of the COMPETES Act that’s nearly unrecognizable from its original version. Overall spending remains the same, but under Science, Space and Technology Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, the 2015 reauthorization carries the imprimatur of the Republican Party, with targeted cuts the GOP calls ‘fiscally responsible’ and Democrats decry as ‘draconian.’ The new version contains language that would bar some Department of Energy climate science research, dictate research priorities to entities that have typically had more autonomy and ban certain federally-sponsored research from influencing policy decisions. With passage of the bill Wednesday night, 217-205, legislation that was once a Democrat-touted achievement has become a potential selling point for the GOP — transformed so thoroughly that President Barack Obama promised to veto the latest version and no Democrats supported it.” The bill passed 217 to 205. [HR 1806, [Vote #258](#); Roll Call, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Bill Cut Programs To Modernize Energy Grid And Funding For Alternative Fuel Research**

“The White House’s Office of Management and Budget warned Monday evening that it would advise President Barack Obama to veto the bill, called the COMPETE Re-authorization Act. OMB praised the investments research and technology but panned cuts to programs focused on energy grid modernization and alternative fuels. ... COMPETES focuses on the Department of Energy and the National Science Fund, giving each more than \$200 million in general research funding increases. But this comes with serious strings attached. Researchers and the White House claim the bill’s cuts to alternative energy research hampers growth in a critical field, and the bill bars the Energy Department from setting recommendations for the Environmental Protection Agency based on its own research.” [Dallas Morning News, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Bill Eliminated Six Department Of Energy Programs**

“The bill would also eliminate six Department of Energy programs that Alexander’s office said were never fully implemented and reform five others.” [The Hill, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Bill Sp.: Legislation Cuts Funding For “Social And Behavioral Science, Redundant Climate Research, And Subsidies For Private Companies”**

“The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, legislation I introduced that the House will consider this week, sets priorities aimed at stimulating economic competitiveness and growth. Our bill increases funding

for the physical sciences and biology, from which come most of the scientific breakthroughs with the potential to stimulate new industries and jobs. Funding is cut for lower priority areas, including social and behavioral science, redundant climate research, and subsidies for private companies.” [The Hill, Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) Op-Ed, [5/18/15](#)]

### **Bill Prevents Department Of Energy From Conducting New Climate Change Research, Must Prove That The Research Would Be Unique Before Approval**

“Scalise said that Republicans intend to end funding on ‘programs that don’t meet the national interests’ with legislation, passed Wednesday 217-205, that would focus federal research in biology, chemistry, math and computer science. But Democrats, who didn’t provide a single vote for the bill, said that while there may be a few questionable research projects funded by the federal government, the Republican-drafted bill makes deep cuts in vital scientific research and seems intended to block research into climate change. The bill bars the Department of Energy’s Office of Science and Technology from approving new climate change science research ‘without making a determination that such work is unique and not duplicative of work by other agencies.’ Avoiding duplication makes sense, particularly at a time of large deficits and significant other funding priorities, said Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas.” [Times-Picayune, [5/20/15](#)]

### **Bill Cut Funding For The National Science Foundation By 45% And Decreased Geoscience Funding By 12%**

“Known as the America COMPETES Act, the sweeping measure sets priorities for research programmes at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). It has drawn sharp criticism from science organizations, which say that the plan would limit the agencies’ ability to fund the most promising research, and from the White House. Some of the most controversial provisions apply to the NSF. The bill suggests slashing funds for the agency’s social, behavioural and economic-sciences directorate from US\$272.2 million in fiscal year 2015 to \$150 million a year in 2016 and 2017 — a 45% cut. And it calls for a 12% decrease in geoscience funding, to \$1.2 billion annually.”

[Nature, [5/21/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment To Restore Funding For Energy And Climate Change Research**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would have restored funding levels for scientific research. The amendment would have provided for “sustained growth and sensible policies across the scientific agencies, in keeping with the goals of the original Competes legislation.” “A bill opponent, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Texas, criticized its flat funding of research and development, politicization of the scientific grant-making process, and decreased funding of the ARPA-E program for breakthrough energy research.” The motion failed 179 to 239. [HR 1806, [Vote #257](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [5/20/15](#); Albany Herald, [5/23/15](#)]

### **Amendment Sponsor LTE: Bill Made “Ideologically Driven Cuts” To Clean Energy And Climate Change Research**

“The chairman, however, is wrong about the way in which research should be prioritized. Politicians should not make ideologically driven cuts to particular areas of investigation with which they disagree, such as clean energy, climate research or the social sciences. Instead, research priorities should be set through the constantly evolving deliberation and debates within the scientific community and at the individual grant level about the areas that need further investigation. It is the National Science Foundation’s well-proven, scientific merit-review process, in which trained experts select the highest quality proposals across all fields of science and engineering, that ought to guide how we invest. Politicians, most of whom do not possess the same scientific or technical expertise, are ill-equipped to predict where the next breakthroughs are most likely to occur. Substituting our judgment for that of scientists would likely result more in missed opportunities than in new advances for American science and innovation.” [The Hill, Reps. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) Letter to Editor, [5/26/15](#)]

### **Supported State Funding for Stem Cell Research**

In 2008, Zinke indicated his support of state funding of stem cell research. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

### **...But Opposed State Funding of Embryonic Stem Cell Research**

In 2008, indicated his opposition to state funding for embryonic stem cell research. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## SENIORS

- ✓ Zinke voted against ensuring companies harming seniors financially not receive help from the Federal Reserve.
- ✓ When Zinke was asked about cuts to or privatization of Social Security and Medicare, he said cutting defense spending and taxing the richest 1% would not fix the growing debt.
- ✓ He even voted to jeopardize Social Security, but supporting a House Rules package that contained a provision that could threaten benefit cuts to Social Security.
- ✓ He voted against blocking a Medicare voucher program.
- ✓ He voted against exempting certain “major rules” from Congressional approval if they protect Social Security and Medicare benefits for Seniors.
- ✓ He was attacked in an ad for supporting Medicare cuts and helping corporations and billionaires.
- ✓ Finally, he supported the Ryan Budget, even saying that it was not “aggressive” enough. The proposal included a Medicare voucher system that would increase out of pocket costs for seniors by 50%; would increase the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 67; cut billions from Medicare benefits; and increase prescription drug costs by up to \$1,700.

### **Zinke Voted Against Ensuring Companies Harming Seniors Financially Not Receive Federal Reserve Help**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Matsui, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report back to the House with an amendment that would ensure that any company that has been convicted of a crime or that has received a judicial or administrative decree related to actions deemed harmful to the financial health of seniors be prohibited from receiving an emergency loan or financial assistance from the Federal Reserve.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 182-242. [CQ, [11/19/15](#); H.R. 3189, Vote 640, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Said Cutting Defense Spending & Taxing The Richest 1% Would Not Fix The Debt When Asked About Cuts to & Privatization of Social Security & Medicare**

“While most of Zinke’s responses drew support from the crowd, one man told the congressman that he was alarmed by Republican budget proposals to cut Medicare and Social Security funding and partially privatize the programs. ‘I don’t want to be at the mercy of a for-profit system of health-care providers and insurers,’ he said. ‘I’m alarmed at the prospect of turning over [Social Security] money into the hands of corrupt Wall Street bankers who tried to destroy our system eight years ago. ... You have to expect the wealthy to do their part by accepting higher taxes, which they can well afford.’ Zinke responded that cutting all defense spending, taxing the richest 1 percent and other Democratic proposals would not provide a fix to the country’s growing debt.” [Daily Inter Lake, [4/2/15](#)]

### **Voted For Jeopardizing Social Security**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for a House Rules package that contained a provision that could threaten benefit cuts to Social Security. The provision would block Congress from redirecting payroll tax revenue from Social Security to the Social Security disability program to help keep the program afloat. The provision would block a

transfer unless it was part of a larger plan to address Social Security's finances through benefit cuts or tax increases. The resolution passed, 234-172. [H Res 5, [Vote #6](#), 1/06/15; Politico, [1/20/15](#)]

### **11 Million Recipients Of Disability Benefits Faced A 19% Benefit Cut**

“The GOP's immediate target is Social Security's sprawling disability insurance program, which has grown at a pace far beyond its revenues and will exhaust its trust fund reserves by December 2016, threatening a 19 percent cut in benefits.” [Politico, [1/20/15](#)]

### **Eleven Million People Receive Disability Benefits**

“About 11 million people get disability benefits, nearly 40 percent more than a decade ago.” [AP, [1/07/15](#)]

## **MEDICARE**

### **Voted To Extend SRS Funding & Community Health Center Funding 2 Years, “Structural Improvements To Medicare.”**

“Today, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted to extend Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding for two years by voting for the bipartisan bill, H.R. 2. Rural communities have experienced dramatic budget shortfalls since SRS funding expired on September 30, 2014, this measure will restore the necessary funds. In addition to reauthorizing SRS funding, the bill also makes structural improvements to Medicare for the first time in decades and extends funding for community health centers for two years (the funding was scheduled to expire in September of this year). H.R. 2 overwhelmingly passed the House with bipartisan support.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Urged Senate To Take “Swift Action” On H.R. 2, Said The Bill Is “Proof Washington Is Fixable.”**

“H.R. 2 is absolutely critical for public health and local economies in rural Montana, and it is my hope that the Senate will take swift action to pass it,” said Rep. Zinke. “I am proud Republicans and Democrats came together today to pass H.R. 2, which reauthorizes SRS funding and also extends funding for the community health care centers that rural Montanans rely on for quality and affordable care. This vote is proof Washington is fixable.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I Am Proud Republicans & Democrats Came Together To ...Make Medicare More Solvent For Montana Seniors”**

“The U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan, \$214 billion funding package on Tuesday night that, among other things, prevents a 21 percent cut in payments to doctors for treating Medicare patients and a funding cliff that would have cut services to 9,000 patients of RiverStone Health. [...] ‘This bill is absolutely critical for public health and local economies in rural Montana, and it is my hope that the president will take swift action to sign it,’ Zinke said in a written statement. ‘I am proud Republicans and Democrats came together to reauthorize SRS funding, make Medicare more solvent for Montana seniors, and extend funding for the community health care centers that rural Montanans rely on for quality and affordable care. This vote is proof Washington is fixable.’” [Billings Gazette, [4/15/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Instructing Conferees Support Paid Sick Leave & Block Medicare Voucher Program in Budget Conference**

On April 14, 2015, Zinke voted against: “Van Hollen, D-Md., motion to instruct House conferees to recede from disagreement with the Senate with respect to a section in the fiscal 2016 Senate budget resolution relating to paid sick time, and recede from a provision in the House amendment that would assume changing Medicare to provide premium support payments.” The motion failed by a 187-239 vote. [CQ, [4/14/15](#); S.Con.Res.11, Vote 153, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Voted For Notice of Observation Treatment & Implication for Care Eligibility Act**

On March 16, 2015, Zinke voted for the Ryan, R-Wis., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require hospitals to provide clear notifications within 36 hours to Medicare beneficiaries who receive hospital services and are being classified as outpatients under observation rather than inpatients for more than 24 hours, and how that classification will affect their Medicare cost-sharing for those services as well as eligibility for future Medicare benefits. The requirements would take effect one year after the bill's enactment. [CQ, Accessed [3/17/15](#); H.R. 876, Vote 115, [3/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Attacked in Ad for Supporting Medicare Cuts, Helping Corporations & Billionaires**

In 2014, Zinke's opponent, John Lewis, criticized him in a TV ad "that accuses Republican , Ryan Zinke of backing a plan to cut Medicare, while protecting tax breaks for billionaires and out-of-state corporations." According to the *Billings Gazette*, "The Lewis ad, titled 'Likes,' started running Thursday statewide. It's his third TV spot of the general election campaign... The new Lewis ad shows a Helena woman trimming flowers on her porch, while also running showing a video of Zinke with a dark background. A female narrator says: 'This is Donna Jean. And this is, Ryan Zinke. Zinke's running for Congress on a plan to cut Donna Jean's Medicare. Not because he dislikes her. Zinke just likes the corporations and billionaires a whole lot more. They're just trying to buy him a seat in Congress. And he wants to give them another big tax break in return. Even at the expense of seniors like Donna Jean. Ryan Zinke is for himself. Not Montana.'" [Billings Gazette, 9/20/14]

NOTE: The ad may be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fyi3GK37Z8>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY**

### **Zinke Voted, If Debt Limit Reached, Make Principal & Interest Payments On Govt. Debt & Social Security Trust Fund, But Not Pay Congress**

In October 2015, Zinkevoted for: "Passage of the bill that would direct the Treasury Department, if the debt limit is reached, to issue obligations in order to make principal and interest payments on both government debt held by the public and on obligations from the Social Security trust fund. The measure would bar use of obligations to pay compensation for members of Congress." The bill passed by a vote of 244-185. [CQ, [10/21/15](#); H.R. 692; Vote 557, [10/21/15](#)]

### **Democrats Argued That The Bill Prioritized Making Payments To Foreign Countries Over Social And Welfare Programs For Americans**

"Meanwhile, the House will take up a trio of proposals, including legislation that supporters argue would help prevent a default even if lawmakers fail to raise the debt ceiling. Democrats, however, have slammed the Default Prevention Act arguing that it places making payments to foreign countries over social and welfare programs for Americans. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) called the House bill 'absurd' and a 'partial default.' 'A partial default. Mr. President, you can't be partially pregnant,' he added. 'House Republicans have engineered legislation to pick which debts to ignore and pay. Their proposed legislation is going to pay foreign creditors first, like China.'" [The Hill, Floor Action, [7/21/15](#)]

### **Senate Minority Leader Reid Called The Bill "Absurd" And A "Partial Default."**

"Meanwhile, the House will take up a trio of proposals, including legislation that supporters argue would help prevent a default even if lawmakers fail to raise the debt ceiling. Democrats, however, have slammed the Default Prevention Act arguing that it places making payments to foreign countries over social and welfare programs for Americans. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) called the House bill 'absurd' and a 'partial default.' 'A partial default. Mr. President, you can't be partially pregnant,' he added. 'House Republicans have engineered legislation to pick which debts to ignore and pay. Their proposed legislation is going to pay foreign creditors first, like China.'" [The Hill, Floor Action, [7/21/15](#)]

**President Obama Issued A Veto Threat Against The Measure, Saying That “Any Legislative Proposal To Prioritize Certain Payments Over Others [...] Would Not Protect The Full Faith And Credit Of The United States Government.”**

“The House on Wednesday passed legislation to prioritize debt payments in the event the U.S. defaults, ahead of a looming November deadline for Congress to raise the debt limit. The measure, passed 235-194, would allow the Treasury Department to continue borrowing above the debt limit to pay principal and interest on the national debt, as well as Social Security payments. Wednesday’s bill comes ahead of an expected Friday vote on a proposal authored by the conservative Republican Study Committee (RSC) that would raise the debt limit through March 2017 in exchange for budget reforms. [...] President Obama issued a veto threat against the measure, saying Congress should instead pass legislation to raise the debt limit to meet all obligations. ‘Any legislative proposal to prioritize certain payments over others is default by another name and would not protect the full faith and credit of the United States government or avoid the negative impact of default on American jobs and businesses,’ the White House said in a Statement of Administration Policy.” [The Hill, Floor Action, [7/21/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted Against Exemptions for “Major Rules” Pertaining to Protecting Social Security & Medicare Benefits for Seniors**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Nolan, D-Minn., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee, with instructions to report back with an amendment that would make exemptions for ‘major rules,’ as defined by the bill, that pertain to the protection of Social Security and Medicare benefits for seniors.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 167-241. [CQ, [7/28/15](#), HR. 427, Vote 481, [7/28/15](#)]

**Zinke Supported the Ryan Budget, Even Said It Wasn’t “Aggressive” Enough**

In 2014, Zinke said he supported the Ryan budget calling it “a reasonable framework going forward.” “It balances the budget in 10 years,” he said. “It wasn’t quite as aggressive as I would like. At last I think there is a Republican vision on the deficit that I think has some clarity to it,” said Zinke. [Billings Gazette, [4/25/14](#)]

**Zinke’ Voucher system would Increase Out-of-Pocket Costs for Seniors by 50%**

The Congressional Budget Office found that under the Ryan budget’s premium support plan, premiums would increase by 50 percent for traditional Medicare. [National Council on Aging, [4/09/14](#); AmericanProgress.org, [2/05/14](#)]

**Zinke Would Increase the Medicare eligibility from age 65 to 67**

Zinke supports the proposed budget by Rep. Paul Ryan that would raise the Medicare eligibility from age 65 to 67 shifting costs to Medicare beneficiaries and leave many 65 and 66 year olds without health coverage. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [4/08/14](#), [3/15/13](#)]

**Zinke Would Cut Billions From Medicare Benefits**

Zinke supports the budget by Rep. Paul Ryan that cuts \$129 billion from Medicare. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [4/08/14](#)]

**Zinke Would Increase Prescription Drug Costs by as much as \$1,700**

Zinke supports the proposed budget by Rep. Paul Ryan that repeals the Medicare benefit improvements under the health care law and reopens the prescription drug donut hole. Under the Paul Ryan budget, seniors could pay as much as \$1700 more for prescription drugs. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [4/08/14](#), [3/15/13](#), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, September [2012](#)]

**Zinke’s Plan Would Slash Funding for Meals on Wheels, Senior Centers, Family Caregiver Support**

Zinke supports the proposed budget by Rep. Paul Ryan that slashes funding for programs like Meals on Wheels, family caregiver support, job training, senior centers and disease prevention programs. [National Council on Aging, [4/09/14](#)]

## **SENIORS ORGANIZATIONS SLAMMED PLAN ZINKE SUPPORTED**

### **AARP: Ryan Plan “Shifts Costs Onto Seniors and Future Retirees**

AARP VP Nancy LeaMond said “Removing the Medicare guarantee of affordable health coverage for older Americans by implementing a premium support system and asking seniors and future retirees to pay more is not the right direction.” [AARP, [4/01/14](#)]

### **NCPSSM: Ryan Plan “Destroys Medicare.”**

From the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare: The Ryan Plan “would end traditional Medicare, make it harder for seniors to choose their own doctors, and increase health care costs for both current and future retirees.” [National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, April [2014](#)]

# TAXES

- ✓ Zinke signed the Americans for Tax Reform anti-tax pledge.
- ✓ He voted to renew and extend individual and business tax provisions for the 2015 tax year.
- ✓ He cosponsored a bill impeaching the Commissioner of the IRS.
- ✓ He urged the IRS Commissioner to investigate the Clinton Foundation tax status.
- ✓ He voted against disqualifying those convicted of evading the Gift tax or Estate Tax from the Death Tax Repeal Act's provisions. He voted to repeal the federal estate tax.
- ✓ He announced support for the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.
- ✓ He voted to protect tax deductions for executive bonuses exceeding \$1 million.
- ✓ Accused by the Montanans for Fair Taxation PAC of making a “backroom deal with Democrats to raise taxes and redistribute funds from our rural schools.”

## **Signed Americans for Tax Reform's Anti-Tax Pledge**

Zinke was listed in 2016 as having signed the Americans for Tax Reform's "Taxpayer Protection Pledge." The federal officeholder pledge declared, "ONE, oppose any and all efforts to increase the marginal income tax rates for individuals and/or businesses; and TWO, oppose any net reduction or elimination of deductions and credits, unless matched dollar for dollar by further reducing tax rates." [ATR Pledge database, accessed [4/16/16](#)]

## **Zinke Voted to Renew And Extend Individual And Business Tax Provisions For 2015 Tax Year**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: "Brady, R-Texas, motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill with an amendment that would renew expired tax provisions for the 2015 tax year, and would allow businesses and individuals to claim those tax breaks when filing their 2015 tax returns in the new year. The measure would extend the majority of provisions for two years. Further, the measure would extend four provisions for five years, including the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the new markets tax credit. The bill would make the research and development, a financing exemption for business income earned overseas, certain charitable tax provisions, the child tax credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the American Opportunity Tax Credit permanent. Further, the measure would lift taxes and maximum stock ownership on real estate investment trusts (REITs). The measure would place a two-year moratorium on the 2010 medical device tax and would create IRS administrative provisions for the treatment of 501(c)4 social welfare organizations and integrity initiatives for refundable tax credits." The motion was agreed to by a 318-109 vote. [CQ, [12/17/15](#); H.R. 2029, Vote 703, [12/17/15](#)]

## **Democrats Criticized The Bill For Increasing Pressure To Reduce Necessary Investments In Defense And Domestic Spending, Not Offsetting Its Tax Cuts, And Not Indexing For Inflation The Child Tax Credit**

"The House on Thursday passed a sweeping \$622 billion tax package, the first of two massive end-of-year measures Congress is rushing to conclude this week. The 'tax extenders' bill was approved in a 318-109 vote, with 241 Republicans joining 77 Democrats in backing the measure. [...] House Democrats argued that by raising the deficit, the bill would make it difficult for the federal government to make necessary investments in defense and domestic spending. They noted that the tax cuts are not offset, and they criticized Republicans for

not indexing for inflation the child tax credit, which helps working families. 'For those who propose to have the increase in the deficit continue to drive down defense and domestic spending, this bill will almost certainly accomplish this,' said Rep. Sandy Levin (D-Mich.), the top Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee." [The Hill, [12/17/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Cosp. Impeaching John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the IRS**

In November 2015, Zinke cosponsored: "A resolution impeaching John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, for high crimes and misdemeanors." [CQ, Accessed [11/17/15](#); H.Res. 494, Co-sponsored 11/16/15, Introduced [10/27/15](#)]

#### **Bozeman Daily Chronicle: Headline: "Daines, Tester, Zinke Ask Leadership to Maintain County PILT Money in 2016 Budget."**

[Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [11/26/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Closing Corporate Inversion Tax Loophole to Fund Investments In U.S. Transportation Infrastructure**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to recommit that "would help improve America's roads, bridges, and highways by stopping corporations that seek to avoid paying their fair share of taxes by moving their business address to another country. Instead, those reclaimed resources will be invested in much-needed American transportation infrastructure improvements." The motion was rejected by a vote of 185-244. [HR 3038, [Vote #440](#), 7/15/2015; Democratic Leader – Motions to Recommit, [7/15/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Permanent Research & Tax Development Tax Credit**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the American Research Competitiveness Act of 2015. "H.R. 880, the American Research and Competitiveness Act of 2015 (Brady) to simplify and make the research & development tax credit permanent." The bill passed 274 to 145. [HR 880, [Vote #260](#), 5/20/15; Roll Call, [5/01/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Extending Research Tax Credit By Two Years And Preventing Deficit Increase**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to recommit with instructions for the American Research Act of 2015. "Motion to recommit the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would remove the bill's proposal to make permanent the research and development tax credit that expired at the end of calendar year 2014, and change the way elements of the credit are calculated. The bill would replace those provisions with language that would extend the credit for two years and would state that the bill shall not result in increasing the deficit or delaying or weakening efforts to adopt a permanent extension of the research credit in a 'fiscally responsible manner.'" The motion failed, 181-240. [HR 880, [Vote #259](#), 5/20/15; CQ, [5/22/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Urged The IRS Commissioner To Investigate The Clinton Foundation Tax Status**

"A whopping 52 House Republicans are publicly pressuring IRS Commissioner John Koskinen to investigate Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton's Clinton Foundation tax status, with 51 members signing a letter organized by Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) that pushes for such an investigation." Zinke signed the letter. [Breitbart, [5/19/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Exclude Family Of Public Safety Officers Killed In The Line Of Duty from Federal Income Tax**

In May 2015 Zinke voted for a: "Reichert, R-Wash., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would exclude from federal income tax federal death benefit payments to family of public safety officers killed in the line of duty and money paid from states to surviving dependents of public safety officers killed in the line of duty." The motion was adopted 413-0. [CQ, [5/12/15](#); H.R. 606, Vote 216, [5/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Permanently Allow Taxpayers To Deduct State & Local Sales Taxes In Lieu Of State & Local Income Taxes**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for: “Pass of the bill that would make permanent the ability of taxpayers to deduct state and local sales taxes in lieu of state and local income taxes, which expired at the end of 2014. The measure would be effective for tax years beginning with 2015.” The motion was passed, 272-152. [CQ, [4/16/15](#); H.R. 622, Vote 159, [4/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Replacing Permanent Deduction for Taxpayers with State & Local Sales Taxes Instead of Income Taxes with 1 Year Extender**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against: “Neal, D-Mass., motion to recommit the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would replace the bill’s proposal to make permanent the ability of taxpayers to deduct state and local sales taxes in lieu of state and local income taxes with a one-year extension. It also would specify that the bill could not increase the deficit or delay or weaken efforts to make permanent the election to deduct state and local sales taxes, as long as it is done in a “fiscally responsible manner.” The motion was rejected, 179-243. [CQ, [4/16/15](#); H.R. 622, Vote 158, [4/16/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Preventing Giving Inheritance Tax Benefits To Those Convicted Of Tax Evasion Or Fraud**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to recommit that would have prevented giving inheritance tax benefits to those convicted of tax evasion or fraud. The motion “would disqualify from the bill’s provisions individuals convicted of attempting to evade the gift tax or before the bill’s enactment engaged in a transaction with intent to evade the estate tax.” The motion failed, 186-232. [HR 1105, [Vote #160](#), 4/16/15; CQ Votes, [4/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Repeal The Federal Estate Tax And Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax, And Reduce The Top Marginal Rate For The Federal Gift Tax**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would repeal the federal estate tax. The measure also would repeal the generation-skipping transfer tax and reduce the top marginal rate for the federal gift tax from 40 percent to 35 percent.” The motion was passed, 240-179. [CQ, [4/16/15](#); H.R. 1105, Vote 161, [4/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Opposed The Death Tax, Claimed It Jeopardized “The Future Of Montana’s More Than 28,000 Farms And Thousands More Family-Run Small Businesses.”**

Zinke said, “Tax Day is also a day when many Montana family farmers and small business owners are reminded of the looming debt their children and grandchildren will owe to the federal government upon their passing, thanks to President Obama’s Death Tax. Washington needs to stop taxing our children to pay for wasteful government spending. The Death Tax jeopardizes the future of Montana’s more than 28,000 farms and thousands more family-run small businesses, and it punishes Americans who have worked hard and played by the rules their entire lives in order to pass their farm or business down to their kids. I’m a proud co-sponsor of the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015.” [Office of Congressman Zinke, Press Release, [4/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Urged Colleagues To Support The Death Tax Repeal Act Of 2015, Claimed The Death Tax Endangered “The Future Of 28,000 Montana Farms And Thousands More Of Small Family-Run Businesses.”**

On the House floor, Zinke said, “I rise to bring awareness to pervasive tax which threatens the very lively hood of the future of generations of Montanans, the Death Tax. You know April 15<sup>th</sup> is tax day and while some Americans look forward to a refund, many families in my state and across the nation are reminded a looming debt, their children and grandchildren will face. The death tax jeopardizes the future of 28,000 Montana farms and thousands more of small family-run businesses. This is not a leisure class. These are hardworking Americans that spent their whole life, generations, building their future only to see it threatened. This tax punishes Americans that worked hard, played by the rules, and want to pass that legacy on to their children. The death tax is a tax on the American dream. I’m a proud co-sponsor of H.R.1105, the death tax repeal act of 2015,

and I urge my colleagues to support this measure in order to preserve American dream for farmers and small ranchers. Thank you.” [Youtube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [4/16/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Voted Against Requiring State & Local Tax Deduction Not Increase Deficit or Delay Comprehensive Tax Reform**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would prevent deficit increases or delays in overall tax reform as a result of state & local tax deduction legislation. The motion also provided a one year extension of a state and local sales tax deduction rather than a permanent extension to make sure Congress could perform fiscally responsible tax extensions. The motion failed, 179-243. [HR 622, [Vote #158](#), 4/16/15; CQ News, [4/16/15](#)]

### **Voted For Making Individuals With Delinquent Tax Debt Ineligible For Federal Employment**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that would make individuals with “seriously delinquent tax debt” ineligible for federal employment, and would include existing federal employees. The bill failed, 266-160. A two thirds majority was required to pass the bill, under suspension of the rules. [HR 1563, [Vote #157](#), 4/15/15; CQ News, [4/15/15](#)]

### **Bill Opponents Noted That Tax Compliance Rate Was 97 Percent For Civil Servants**

“Opponents noted in debate that the tax compliance rate for civil servants was 97 percent in 2014, compared to 95 percent for House members and their staffs and 91 percent for the public at large. Civil servants owed \$1.14 billion in delinquent taxes last year.” [Bakersfield Californian, [4/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Taxpayer Bill Of Rights**

“Today is ‘Tax Day.’ A day that costs Americans trillions of dollars and billions of hours in compliance. Today I’m voting to hold the IRS accountable and voting for a Taxpayer Bill of Rights to protect you from intimidation and unethical practices by the IRS.” [Congressman Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [4/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Rates Should Be Lower. The Code Should Be Fairer And Flatter. And Most Of All, It Should Be Simpler.”**

Zinke said, “Today is Tax Day, but it’s no red letter day. Tax Day is a day that costs American families trillions of dollars and billions of hours in compliance. I believe Montanans pay too much in taxes and deserve to keep more of their hard-earned paycheck. Rates should be lower. The code should be fairer and flatter. And most of all, it should be simpler. I don’t know about you, but I’d rather be spending time with my family on the weekends, not filling out a hundred pages of government paperwork.” [Office of Congressman Zinke, Press Release, [4/15/15](#)]

### **Voted For Permanently Allowing Taxpayers To Deduct State And Local Sales Taxes**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for a bill “that would make permanent the ability of taxpayers to deduct state and local sales taxes in lieu of state and local income taxes, which expired at the end of 2014. The measure would be effective for tax years beginning with 2015.” The bill passed, 272-152. [HR 622, [Vote #159](#), 4/16/15; CQ News, [4/16/15](#)]

### **Bill Not Paid For, Would Add \$42 Billion To National Debt**

“Because the bill is not paid for, it would add \$42 billion to national debt through fiscal 2025.” [Albuquerque Journal, [4/19/15](#)]

### **Voted For Considering State And Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act On House Floor**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for considering the State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act of 2015 on the House floor. The rule was adopted, 242-182. [HRes 200, [Vote #155](#), 4/15/15; CQ Votes, [4/15/15](#)]

### **Voted For Repealing Federal Estate Tax**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for repealing the estate tax. “The measure also would repeal the generation-skipping transfer tax and reduce the top marginal rate for the federal gift tax from 40 percent to 35 percent.” The bill passed, 240-179. [HR 1105, [Vote #161](#), 4/16/15; CQ News, [4/16/15](#)]

### **USA Today: “Repealing Estate Tax Would Reward .2%”**

“Of the nearly 3 million Americans who die every year, only about two-tenths of 1% have enough assets to qualify. It’s a rather exclusive group. This isn’t to disparage people who worked hard enough (or, in some cases, were lucky enough) to have estates that big. It’s just that, at a time when income inequality is one of the nation’s most vexing problems, the 0.2% hardly need extra help from Congress.” [USA Today, Editorial, [4/16/15](#)]

### **CBPP: “Roughly 2 Of Every 1,000 Estates Face The Estate Tax”**

“Today, 99.8 percent of estates owe no estate tax at all, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation.[3] Only the estates of the wealthiest 0.2 percent of Americans -- roughly 2 out of every 1,000 people who die -- owe any estate tax. (See Figure 1.) This is because of the tax’s high exemption amount, which has jumped from \$650,000 per person in 2001 to \$5.43 million per person in 2015.” [CBPP, “10 Facts You Should Know About The Federal Estate Tax,” [3/23/15](#)]

### **Bill Impacted Fewer Than 6,000 Families**

“This tax is levied on the portion of estates exceeding \$5.43 million per person or \$10.86 million per married couple, and because of those exemption levels, it affects less than 1 percent of estates, or fewer than 6,000 families in 2014.” [Philadelphia Inquirer, [4/19/15](#)]

### **Bill Would Add \$269 Billion To National Debt**

“Voting 240 for and 179 against, the House on April 16 passed a GOP-sponsored bill (HR 1105) that would permanently repeal the federal estate tax in a way that would add \$269 billion to national debt through fiscal 2025.” [Albuquerque Journal, [4/19/15](#)]

### **Politifact: False – “Estate Tax ‘In Many Cases’ Forces Family Farmers And Small Business Owners To Sell Their Holdings**

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates only 6 tenths of 1 percent of estates with farms qualified for the tax in 2013. The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center estimates that there were 20 small, closely held farms and businesses that were subject to the tax that year. It’s unknown how many of them, if any at all, were sold to pay the levy. So Hurt’s statement comes up empty. We rate it False.” [Politifact, [5/03/15](#)]

### **Voted For Considering Estate Tax Repeal On House Floor**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for considering a bill repealing the federal estate tax on the House floor. The rule was adopted, 242-182. [HRes 200, [Vote #155](#), 4/15/15; CQ Votes, [4/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. The No Hires For The Delinquent IRS Act**

In March 2015, Zinke cosponsored “a bill to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt.” [CQ, Accessed [3/27/15](#); H.R. 1206, Cosponsored 3/25/15, Introduced [3/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Classify Anyone With “Seriously Delinquent Tax Debt” Ineligible For Federal Employment, Including Existing Federal Employees**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for: “Chaffetz, R-Utah, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would make individuals with a ‘seriously delinquent tax debt,’ including existing federal employees, ineligible for federal employment. The bill’s definition of ‘seriously delinquent’ would not include, for example, a debt that is being paid in a timely manner under an agreement. The bill also would allow the head of an agency to take personnel action, not including paid leave, against an employee if the employee has willfully failed to file a tax

return or understated federal tax liability, unless it is due to reasonable cause.” The motion was rejected, 266-160. [CQ, [4/15/15](#); H.R.1563, Vote 157, [4/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Companies And Individuals Delinquent On Federal Taxes From Receiving Federal Contracts Or Grants**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for: “Chaffetz, R-Utah, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would generally bar individuals and companies with seriously delinquent federal tax debts from receiving government contracts or grants, with waivers allowed for certain national interests. The bill also would provide for the suspension or disbarment of existing contractors who have seriously delinquent tax debts. The definition of ‘seriously delinquent’ would not, for instance, include debt being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement.” The motion was passed, 424-0. [CQ, [4/15/15](#); H.R.1562, Vote 156, [4/15/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Preventing Tax Deductions For Executive Bonuses Exceeding \$1 Million**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would prevent companies from claiming tax deductions for executive bonuses exceeding \$1 million if they failed to give lower level employees raises to match increases in the cost of living. The motion failed, 168-243. [H Res 5, [Vote #5](#), 1/06/15; CQ Floor Votes, [1/06/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Bill Preventing U.S. Corporations From Moving Overseas To Dodge Paying Taxes**

In January 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of the Stop Corporate Expatriation and Invest in America’s Infrastructure Act, a bill that would prevent U.S. corporations from moving overseas to dodge taxes. “The second is an infrastructure bill that would stop corporations from relocating abroad and redirect tax money lost through these so-called inversions to infrastructure projects in the U.S. That money would be sent to the highway trust fund.” The previous question passed, 239 to 168. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 5, [Vote #4](#), 1/06/15; Politico, [1/05/15](#); Congressional Record, [1/06/15](#)]

### **“Can’t Cut a Way Out” of Our Spending Problems**

In December 2013, on the Voices of Montana radio program, Zinke said that “we can’t cut a way out and we can’t tax a way out” of the United States’ spending problem. Zinke said, “And so I, I look at it and it’s clear to me that Washington cannot rein in the spending. And so, the only way out of our problem, if we can’t cut a way out, and we can’t tax a way out, because I think taxes are too high as they sit right now, I think the only alternative is we’re going to have to grow our way out, and we can create jobs and grow the economy, and Aaron, the only way to do that is to get business, you know, moving, by getting the government out of business.” [Voices of Montana, 12/11/13]

### **Montanans for Fair Taxation PAC Ran Ads Criticizing Zinke**

In April 2011, Montanans for Fair Taxation PAC sponsored radio advertisements criticizing Zinke. The ad accused Zinke of making a “backroom deal with Democrats to raise taxes and redistribute funds from our rural schools.” [Independent Record, 4/18/11]

### **Voted Against Requesting an Interim Study on the Income Tax**

In April 2011, Zinke voted against a joint resolution that would have requested an interim study of Montana’s individual income tax system and options to revise the individual income tax. The resolution passed (43-7). [[HJR 13](#), [4/26/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Improving State Tax Administration**

In April 2011, Zinke voted against improving the state tax administration, by providing that 30 percent of the lodging facility use tax attributable to expenditures by state agencies for in-state lodging be deposited in the state general fund. The bill passed (43-4). [[HB 111](#), [4/02/11](#)]

### **Voted Against Allowing Water Districts to Use Any Combination of Assessment Methods**

In March 2011, Zinke voted against a bill that would allow county water and sewer districts to use any combination of assessment methods to meet bond obligations and other expenses. The bill passed (48-2). [[HB 263, 3/09/11](#)]

### **Supported Greatly Decreasing Property Taxes**

In 2008, as part of a 2008 Political Courage Test from Project Vote Smart, Zinke indicated that he supported greatly decreasing property taxes. Zinke said, “Our government should spend within its means. Montana should always be vigilant to exam ways to increase government efficiency and reduce waste. Providing incentives for clean, small business opportunities promotes a needed long term revenue stream. I believe in a fair and progressive tax system that does not penalize incentive and innovation.” [Project Vote Smart, accessed [5/05/14](#)]

## TERRORISM & NATIONAL SECURITY

- ✓ Zinke voted to require the DHS Secretary to report to Congress on state and local terrorism preparedness.
- ✓ He claimed that the President was concealing the number of Syrian refugees allowed into the U.S.
- ✓ He ignored a request for comment on the Reauthorization of the Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.
- ✓ He claimed “the world’s not going to shut down” if the NSA bulk surveillance program was allowed to expire. He also said, “My view is that metadata is fine until you get to a name. The moment you get to a name, you better have a warrant and judge at that point.” But he voted to prohibit the NSA’s bulk collection of telephone metadata and ability to collect other bulk data.
- ✓ He voted against a bill that would fund the Department of Homeland Security and keep the department running despite a near shutdown.
- ✓ He supported and even encouraged drones in Montana, attempting to make the state a hub for drone development.
- ✓ He has been an adamant opponent of the President’s efforts to close the detainee facility in Guantanamo Bay. He claimed: “I have sent terrorists to Guantanamo Bay – just to have this President release them.” He has also repeatedly supported legislative maneuvers to make it difficult for the President to close the facility.
- ✓ He has repeatedly argued for loosening the Rules of Engagement in the fight against ISIS, but opposed more troops in Iraq or Syria. He argued for supporting and arming the Kurds and Sunnis.

### **Zinke Voted to Require POTUS to Submit to Congress a National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for a: “Katko, R-N.Y., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the president to submit to Congress a national strategy to combat terrorist travel that would need to include: descriptions of all federal programs and activities to constrain travel by terrorists, an identification of security vulnerabilities domestically and abroad, goals for closing the vulnerabilities and for enhancing the government’s ability to constrain terrorist travel, as well as actions to be taken to meet those goals. It would also require implementation plans.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 392-0. [CQ, [2/23/16](#); H.R. 4408, Vote 83, [2/23/16](#)]

### **Zinke Voted to Require POTUS to Report Travel from the U.S. to Iraq Or Syria in Support of a Terrorist Org**

In February 2016, Zinke voted for a: “Hurd, R-Texas, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the president, acting through the secretary of Homeland Security, to review known instances since 2011 in which a person has traveled or tried to travel from the United States to a conflict zone in Iraq or Syria in order to join or provide material support to a terrorist organization. The bill would require that the review, the results of which would need to be submitted to Congress, include an identification of areas for improvement to

prevent such travel in the future.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 397-0. [CQ, [2/23/16](#); H.R. 4402, Vote 84, [2/23/16](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Move Bill to Codify the DHS’s Functions of the Science & Technology Directorate**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Ratcliffe, R-Texas, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would codify the functions of the Science and Technology Directorate as the primary research, development, testing, and evaluation arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The bill would require the agency to address homeland security capability gaps, develop a five-year research and development plan, and improve cybersecurity technology and information-sharing. The bill would establish Homeland Security Science and Technology fellowships and summer internship programs.” The motion was agreed to by 416-0 vote. [CQ, [12/10/15](#); H.R. 3578, Vote 687, [12/10/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Require HS Secretary to Report to Congress On State & Local Terrorism Preparedness**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Hurd, R-Texas, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress on state and local terrorism preparedness and first-responder protection policies. The bill would allow the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the effect of these policies on first-responders’ families and determine the degree to which these policies are implemented using Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants. The bill would further require the DHS to assess how the report applies to federal first-responders.” The motion was agreed to by a 396-12 vote. [CQ, [12/10/15](#); H.R. 2795, Vote 689, [12/10/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Codify The Functions Of The Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) Within DHS**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Carter, R-Ga., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would codify the functions of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) within the Department of Homeland Security and would establish the criteria for training to take place at the centers. The bill would require centers to provide state-of-the-art training and performance evaluation to employees of federal agencies that are engaged in homeland security operations or federal law enforcement activities, particularly regarding improving coordination and security of critical infrastructure. The bill further requires partner organizations participating in FLETC training programs to assign instructors to the program or reimburse the FLETC for the salary equivalent required.” The motion was agreed to by a 420-2 vote. [CQ, [12/8/15](#); HR 3842, Vote 680, [12/8/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Claimed Obama Was Concealing Number of Syrian Refugees Allowed in the U.S.**



Ryan Zinke

November 15, 2015 · 🌐

The deadly Paris terrorist attack was carried out by radical Islamic terrorists, some traveled to France in the refugee population. Earlier this year, I began an effort to ban Syrian refugees from entering the United States because of the inherent security threat it poses. Now we are learning the Obama Administration has kept key information from Congress about how many have already come to our cities. Tomorrow when Congress returns to session I will personally be speaking with my colleagues about expediting legislation to block Obama's plan to bring more than 100,000 refugees to the United States.



### Cong. Source: Syrian Refugees Coming To U.S. For Last Two Fiscal Years

More Syrian refugees arrived in New Orleans almost two weeks ago eliciting a warning from House Homeland Security Committee about the lack of current...

DAILYCALLER.COM

[Facebook, Ryan Zinke, 11/15/15]

### Zinke Spoke About The Terrorist Attacks Of September 11<sup>th</sup>

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [9/10/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### Zinke Did Not Respond To A Request For Comment On The Reauthorization Of Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Act

“Cheryl Kelly Lee’s husband, Captain Mark Lee with the Jersey City Fire Department, was an early responder to ground zero following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. He lost some of his best friends in the attack, and spent five days on the site. [...] In 2010, Congress passed the Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which established the health care program from 9/11 responders. The act is set to expire at the end of this month, but there is bipartisan support to extend the program. Sen. Jon Tester is one of the bill’s sponsors. Sen. Steve Daines’ spokeswoman Alea Lockman didn’t specifically address Zadroga but said the senator ‘strongly believes that we must continue providing support for these responders, who selflessly answered the call on 9/11.’ She said Daines is working with the Senate HELP Committee to ensure that happens. Rep. Ryan Zinke’s office didn’t respond to request for comment.” [Independent Record, [9/20/15](#)]

### Zinke Said “The World’s Not Going To Shut Down” If The NSA Bulk Surveillance Program Expired

BLITZER: “Where do you stand on the extension of the NSA surveillance programs, because Sunday there’s a deadline?” ZINKE: “Well I don’t think it’s a crisis, per se. I think there’s probably bigger threats: Iran having a nuclear weapon, our southern border, certainly cyber security. You know, the world’s not going to shut down. The question is metadata and to say -- Senator Paul brought up some good points. Having metadata OK to be stored by phone companies and not OK to be stored by the government agencies, is either safer? Not really.” BLITZER: “So you’re with Senator Paul on this?” ZINKE: “Well, I respect his opinion. I think we need to move forward. You know, certainly, cyber security looking at how the enemy is evolved, we need to

have a discussion. Protecting civil liberties, our personal rights, is immensely important. My view is that metadata is fine until you get to a name. The moment you get to a name, you better have a warrant and judge at that point. But gathering data. I think the -- storing the data needs to be in a safer place. Just having the data moved to a phone company, so 2,000 different phone companies is like pushing it in a closet. And is that closet safe? Well, the answer is no. It's no safer than the government. And so we need to make sure that we protect civil liberties, and make sure we protect our nation's security. And I think we can do that, but I appreciate the senator's, you know -- he's steadfast in his position about civil liberties, which are important. Our Constitution shouldn't be trampled on." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [5/29/15](#)]

**Zinke: My View Is That Metadata Is Fine Until You Get To A Name. The Moment You Get To A Name, You Better Have A Warrant And Judge At That Point."**

BLITZER: "Where do you stand on the extension of the NSA surveillance programs, because Sunday there's a deadline?" ZINKE: "Well I don't think it's a crisis, per se. I think there's probably bigger threats: Iran having a nuclear weapon, our southern border, certainly cyber security. You know, the world's not going to shut down. The question is metadata and to say -- Senator Paul brought up some good points. Having metadata OK to be stored by phone companies and not OK to be stored by the government agencies, is either safer? Not really." BLITZER: "So you're with Senator Paul on this?" ZINKE: "Well, I respect his opinion. I think we need to move forward. You know, certainly, cyber security looking at how the enemy is evolved, we need to have a discussion. Protecting civil liberties, our personal rights, is immensely important. My view is that metadata is fine until you get to a name. The moment you get to a name, you better have a warrant and judge at that point. But gathering data. I think the -- storing the data needs to be in a safer place. Just having the data moved to a phone company, so 2,000 different phone companies is like pushing it in a closet. And is that closet safe? Well, the answer is no. It's no safer than the government. And so we need to make sure that we protect civil liberties, and make sure we protect our nation's security. And I think we can do that, but I appreciate the senator's, you know -- he's steadfast in his position about civil liberties, which are important. Our Constitution shouldn't be trampled on." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [5/29/15](#)]

**Zinke Said He Believed Metadata Should Be Stored In A "Safer Place" But Didn't Believe Metadata Was Safe With Phone Companies Or The Government.**

BLITZER: "Where do you stand on the extension of the NSA surveillance programs, because Sunday there's a deadline?" ZINKE: "Well I don't think it's a crisis, per se. I think there's probably bigger threats: Iran having a nuclear weapon, our southern border, certainly cyber security. You know, the world's not going to shut down. The question is metadata and to say -- Senator Paul brought up some good points. Having metadata OK to be stored by phone companies and not OK to be stored by the government agencies, is either safer? Not really." BLITZER: "So you're with Senator Paul on this?" ZINKE: "Well, I respect his opinion. I think we need to move forward. You know, certainly, cyber security looking at how the enemy is evolved, we need to have a discussion. Protecting civil liberties, our personal rights, is immensely important. My view is that metadata is fine until you get to a name. The moment you get to a name, you better have a warrant and judge at that point. But gathering data. I think the -- storing the data needs to be in a safer place. Just having the data moved to a phone company, so 2,000 different phone companies is like pushing it in a closet. And is that closet safe? Well, the answer is no. It's no safer than the government. And so we need to make sure that we protect civil liberties, and make sure we protect our nation's security. And I think we can do that, but I appreciate the senator's, you know -- he's steadfast in his position about civil liberties, which are important. Our Constitution shouldn't be trampled on." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [5/29/15](#)]

**Zinke Was On Wolf Blitzer To Discuss ISIS, Iraq And The Patriot Act.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [5/29/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Voted to Prohibit NSA's Bulk Collection of Telephone Metadata & Ability to Collect Other Bulk Data**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: "Passage of the bill that would modify domestic surveillance authorities by prohibiting the National Security Agency's bulk collection and storage of telephone metadata and ability to collect other bulk data. The measure would require the NSA to obtain approval from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to examine the calling records of individual target telephone numbers on a case-by-case basis, before the request for information is made to a phone company, and limit the associated calling records of a telephone number that may be examined to two 'hops' from the suspect's number - essentially codifying proposals made by the president in 2014. The bill also would redefine the type of information that may be subject to a search query under surveillance programs, impose additional surveillance oversight requirements, and extend until December 2019 the Patriot Act Section 215, roving wiretap and 'Lone Wolf' surveillance authorities." The bill passed by a vote of 338-88. [CQ, [5/13/15](#); H.R. 2048, Vote 224, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Voted For Preventing Government Surveillance Of American Citizens**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for the USA FREEDOM Act "which would prevent the NSA from collecting bulk metadata about the phone numbers people dial and when their calls are placed ... The bill would require the NSA to obtain a court order to look at data, which would be held by phone companies. It would also be required to ask for a 'specific selection term,' so that records could not be collected in bulk. It would place limits on other types of data collection as well, add new transparency measures to make more information public and create a special team of experts to weigh in on some unique cases before the secretive federal court that oversees intelligence programs." The bill passed 338 to 88. [HR 2048, [Vote #224](#), 5/13/15; The Hill, [5/13/15](#)]

### **Voted For Encouraging Private Sector To Share Cyber Threat Data With Department of Homeland Security**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for the passage of the bill, as amended, that would promote the voluntary sharing of information about cyber threats among private companies and between the private sector and federal government. The bill would provide liability protections to companies that share cyber threat information. It would also establish the Homeland Security Department's National Cybersecurity and Communication Integration Center as the lead federal agency in receiving and exchanging cyber threat information with other federal agencies and private companies. The provisions of the bill would sunset after seven years. The bill passed by a vote of 355-63. [HR 1731, [Vote #173](#), 4/23/15; CQ Floor Votes, 4/23/15]

### **Voted Against Prioritizing Protecting Infrastructure, Jobs And Health Information In Cyber Threat Intelligence Sharing Programs**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against the Israel, D-N.Y., motion to recommit the bill to the House Homeland Security Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would clarify the protection of infrastructure, jobs and health information from cyberattacks. The amendment would direct the secretary of Homeland Security conduct ongoing risk-informed outreach to the owners and operators of at-risk critical infrastructure. The motion was rejected by a vote of 180-238. [HR 1731, [Vote #172](#), 4/23/15; CQ Floor Votes, 4/23/15]

### **Voted For Requiring Homeland Security Department Issue Report On Civil Liberties' Impact Of Programs Created Under Cyber Threat Intelligence Sharing Bill**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for the Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment that would require the Homeland Security Department to issue a report to Congress on the best means for aligning federally funded cybersecurity research and development with private sector efforts to protect privacy and civil liberties while also protecting the nation's critical infrastructure. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 405-8. [HR 1731, [Vote #171](#), 4/23/15; CQ Floor Votes, 4/23/15]

### **Voted For Encouraging Private Sector To Share Cyber Threat Data With Federal Intelligence Agencies**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for the passage of the bill to promote the voluntary sharing of cyber threat information among private companies and between the private sector and federal government. The bill would provide liability protections to companies that share cyber threat information and would require that all personally identifiable information be removed from information that is shared. It would also establish a Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center within the director of National Intelligence's Office. As amended, the provisions of the bill would sunset after seven years. The bill was passed by a vote of 307-116. [HR 1560, [Vote #170](#), 4/22/15; CQ Floor Votes, 4/22/15]

### **Voted Against Prioritizing Terrorist & Foreign Threats To Military Assets In Cyber Threat Intelligence Sharing Programs**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against the Rice, D-N.Y., motion to recommit the bill to the House Select Intelligence Committee with instructions to report back with an amendment that would add language to clarify that appropriate agencies prioritize the sharing of cyber threat indicators regarding known terrorist organizations and attempts to steal U.S. military technology by state-sponsored computer hackers. The motion was rejected by a vote of 183-239. [HR 1560, [Vote #169](#), 4/22/15; CQ Floor Votes, 4/22/15]

### **Voted For Sunset Protecting Cyber Networks Act After Seven Years**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for the Mulvaney, R-S.C., amendment that would sunset the provisions of the bill after seven years. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 313-110. [HR 1560, [Vote #168](#), 4/22/15; CQ Floor Votes, 4/22/15]

### **Voted For Weakening Cybersecurity, Even For Veterans**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for a rule to allow consideration of a bill "that would promote voluntary sharing of information about cyberthreats among private companies and between the private sector and federal government and the bill (HR 1731) that would allow the Homeland Security Department to share the cyberthreat information it gathers with private sector entities." The resolution passed, 238-182. [HRes 212, [Vote #164](#), 4/22/15; CQ News, [4/22/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Bill Protecting Veterans' Personal Information From Cyber Attacks**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of a bill to protect veterans' personal information from cyber-attacks. The bill "would promote voluntary sharing of information about cyberthreats among private companies and between the private sector and federal government and the bill (HR 1731) that would allow the Homeland Security Department to share the cyberthreat information it gathers with private sector entities." The previous question passed, 237-179. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [HRes212, [Vote #163](#), 4/22/15; CQ News, [4/22/15](#)]

### **BDC Blasted Zinke for DHS Vote, Said He "Cast His Lot with the 'Delusional' Element in the House"**

"It appears our newly elected U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke has cast his lot with the "delusional" element in the House of Representatives. That's the word his fellow Republican Rep. Peter King of New York used to describe Zinke and others who voted against a vital measure that would fund the Department of Homeland Security. It's disappointing to see that Zinke, who campaigned on a promise of compromise and getting things done, has chosen this route. Also disappointing is the fact that Zinke seems to consider himself a constitutional scholar who knows what limits are placed on the powers of the president." [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Editorial, [3/5/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Bill Funding DHS**

On March 3, 2015, Zinke voted against a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. "The House of Representatives passed a bill on Tuesday funding the Department of Homeland Security through the end of September, effectively ending a congressional standoff that nearly shut the department down at the end of last

week. The bill, identical to a measure that cleared the Senate last Friday, passed by a margin of 257 to 167, with 75 Republicans and 182 Democrats voting in favor.” [HR 240, [Vote #109](#), 3/03/15; CBS, [3/03/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Clean, Long-Term DHS Funding Bill**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2015, a bill long-term funding bill. “The Democratic Previous Question would force a vote on legislation to provide long-term funding for Homeland Security, without radical, anti-immigrant riders. This is the fifth opportunity for House Republicans to vote for a clean DHS funding bill.” The previous question passed, 240 to 183. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 129, [Vote #100](#), 2/27/15; Democratic Leader, [2/27/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Clean, Long-Term Department Of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for considering a clean, long-term Department of Homeland Security funding bill approved by the Senate and instead voted to disagree with the Senate amendments and request a conference committee. “The House passed a measure along party lines Friday afternoon to go to conference with the Senate to hash out the differences between their long-term bills. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) later announced a motion to agree. But Senate Democrats, who insist on a clean bill, are expected to block plans for a conference on Monday.” The motion passed, 228 to 191. [HR 240, [Vote #102](#), 2/27/15; Washington Post, [2/28/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Clean, Full-Year DHS Funding Bill**

In February 2015, Zinke voted against a motion to instruct members of a conference committee to accept a clean, long-term Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill approved by the Senate. According to the motion’s sponsor, Rep. Roybal-Allard, “my motion would instruct the conferees to recede to the Senate position, which is the responsible position of providing a full-year funding for the Homeland Security Department ... Let the House, like the Senate, do the right thing and send this bill to the President. I urge my colleagues to vote for this motion to instruct conferees to bring back a clean, full-year, bipartisan funding bill for this Nation’s homeland security.” [HR 240, [Vote #105](#), 2/27/15; House Congressional Record, Page H1485, [2/27/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Last Minute Stop Gap Measure To Prevent DHS Shutdown**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for a motion to suspend the rules and concur with a Senate amendment to extend FY2015 funding levels for the Department of Homeland Security by one week. “Congress managed at the last minute on Friday night to avert a partial shuttering of the Department of Homeland Security, passing a one-week funding measure for the agency. President Obama signed it shortly before the midnight deadline ... After the House bill went down, the Senate sought to pull DHS back from the brink by swiftly passing the one-week bill by a voice vote. The House followed suit shortly thereafter, voting 357 to 60 in favor of it.” [HR 33, [Vote #106](#), 2/27/15; Washington Post, [2/28/15](#)]

*NOTE: 174 Democrats voted in favor of this motion.*

#### **Voted For Stalling 3 Weeks On Passing Long-Term Funding For Department Of Homeland Security**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for continuing FY2015 funding levels for the Department of Homeland Security for three weeks. “Earlier in the day, the House collapsed in failure when a last-ditch attempt to fund the agency for an additional three weeks died at the hands of most Democrats and dozens of Republicans who voted against it.” The resolution failed, 203 to 224. [H J Res 35, [Vote #104](#), 2/27/15; Washington Post, [2/28/15](#)]

#### **Vote Highlighted Lack Of House Republican Unity**

“The defeat was a major blow to Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio), whose struggles to get unruly members to fall in line have continued in the new Congress. More broadly, it was an early black eye for the unified Republican majority that had vowed to govern effectively.” [Washington Post, [2/28/15](#)]

### **Vote Was A “Humiliating Setback” For Speaker Boehner**

“The accord was reached after a stunning and humiliating setback for Speaker John A. Boehner and his leadership team earlier Friday, when the House voted against their original plan to extend funding for the department for three weeks — a position that Mr. Boehner had considered a fail-safe. More than 50 House Republicans defected, voting against the bill.” [New York Times, [2/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported 3-Wk CR Extending DHS Funding, Blamed Dems For Playing Politics**

“In the House, 172 Democrats joined 50 Republicans to defeat the three-week extension. Zinke said the bill would have passed if more Democrats supported it. ‘This is why the American people have no faith in Congress,’ Zinke said in an email after the House vote. ‘Today, the majority of Republicans put a common-sense measure on the table that would keep the Department of Homeland Security funded; however Democrats in both chambers were more concerned with scoring political points than keeping the country safe. I will be working through the weekend to help craft a solution. I urge my Democratic colleagues in the House and the Senate to end the political games, come to the table and work with us to keep the homeland secure.’” [Missoulian, [2/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Indicated That He Opposed A Clean Bill To Fund The DHS But Said He Did Not Support Shutting Down DHS But “To Ensure” Obama’s Executive Immigration Orders Were Not “Executable.”**

“Twice this week Zinke indicated that he will vote against a DHS funding bill that does not roll back President Barack Obama’s executive order on immigration. ‘I am going to fight for the U.S. Constitution, and I am bound by oath to do my duty to defend it,’ Zinke said when asked if he would vote for the ‘clean’ bill from the Senate. ‘My desire is not to shut down DHS but to ensure that the president’s unconstitutional actions are not executable,’ Zinke said. ‘I support a conference committee to work on a solution that constitutionally defends the homeland.’” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [2/27/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted Against Killing the Senate Amendment to H.R. 240 to Provide Funding for DHS through September 30<sup>th</sup>**

In March 2015, Zinke voted against the Massie, R-Ky., motion to table (kill) the Senate amendment to the bill (HR 240) that would provide \$47.8 billion in fiscal 2015 for the Homeland Security Department and related activities. The motion was rejected by a vote of 140-278. [CQ, H.R. 240, Vote 108, [3/3/15](#)]

### **Congressman Zinke Voted Against Concurring with the Senate Amendment to Provide Funding for DHS Through September 30<sup>th</sup>**

In March 2015, Zinke voted nay on the Simpson, R-Idaho., motion to recede from the House amendment and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (HR 240) that would provide \$47.8 billion in fiscal 2015 for the Homeland Security Department and related activities. The bill would include \$12.6 billion for Customs and Border Protection; \$6.3 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement; \$7.2 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, including fees; \$10 billion for the Coast Guard; \$1.7 billion for the Secret Service; and \$10.8 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including \$6.4 billion for emergency disaster relief. [CQ, H.R. 240, Vote 109, [3/3/15](#)]

### **Ryan Zinke Voted Against Executive Amnesty, Vowed to Defend Montanans From a “Lawless President, Drunk on the Power of His Pen”**

March 2015, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted against President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty by voting no on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 240 which would extend funding to DHS and permit funding for the President’s executive amnesty. “Today I voted to uphold my oath to defend the Constitution and protect the American people from a lawless president, drunk on the power of his pen. Since the day I was sworn in to office, I voted for every single measure to legally continue funding the Department of Homeland Security. However, Democrats in the Senate and House were more concerned with paying for President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty than actually keeping our homeland safe. The president has said 22 times that he did not have the authority to

implement executive amnesty and federal courts agreed. I will continue to fight for Montana, defend the Constitution and secure Homeland.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [HYPERLINK "https://zinke.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/ryan-zinke-votes-against-executive-amnesty-vows-defend-montanans-lawless" 3/3/15\]](https://zinke.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/ryan-zinke-votes-against-executive-amnesty-vows-defend-montanans-lawless)

## **Four Times Voted Against Clean DHS Funding Bill**

### **January 2015: Voted Against Clean DHS Funding Bill**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would allow a clean version of the Homeland Security funding bill—without amendments defunding Obama’s executive order on immigration—to pass, removing the threat of shutdown for the Department. The measure failed 244 to 184. [HR 240, [Vote #34](#), 1/14/15]

### **February 2015 #1: Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Clean Department Of Homeland Security Funding Bill**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of a motion to “force a vote on clean legislation to provide long-term funding for the Department Homeland Security, without radical, anti-immigrant riders.” The previous question passed, 242 to 183. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H.RES.100, [Vote #71](#), 2/11/15; Democratic Leadership Summary, [2/11/15](#)]

### **February 2015 #2: Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Clean DHS Funding Bill**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of a motion to force a clean vote on the DHS funding bill without anti-immigration riders. The previous question passed, 232 to 164. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 101, [Vote #77](#), 2/12/15]

### **February 2015 #3: Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Clean DHS Funding Bill**

In February 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of a motion to force a clean vote on the DHS funding bill without anti-immigration riders. The previous question passed, 241 to 181. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 121, [Vote #86](#), 2/25/15]

## **Voted Against Motion To Block Elimination Of Regulations That Prevent Terrorism And Crime, Protect Wages**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would block Republicans from eliminating regulations that help prevent terrorism and crime, protect wages and gender pay equity, save taxpayer dollars, help small businesses, and prevent discrimination. The motion failed 245 to 180. [HR 185, [Vote #27](#), 1/13/15; Motion To Recommit, [1/13/15](#)]

## **Voted Against Protecting Department Of Homeland Security Regulations From Significant Delays**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment exempting rules issued by the Department of Homeland Security from the bill’s burdensome requirements. The amendment failed 242 to 176. [HR 185, [Amendment No. 3](#), [Vote #25](#), 1/13/15, CQ Floor Votes, [1/13/15](#)]

## **Voted Against A Motion To Loosen Restrictions On Individuals Who Finance Terrorism**

In January 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would disqualify anyone convicted of providing financial assistance to terrorist organizations or state sponsors of terrorism from regulatory relief under the underlying bill, the Promoting Job Creation and Reducing Small Business Burdens Act. “But House members also took up a narrower measure that would slow enforcement of Dodd-Frank requirements and weaken other regulations on financial services companies.” The motion failed 183 to 242. [HR 37, [Vote #37](#), 1/14/15; Motion to Recommit, [1/14/15](#); CQ Floor Votes, [1/14/15](#); New York Times, [1/13/15](#)]

## **DRONES IN THE U.S.**

### **Said Montana Was “Well-Positioned” to be a Testing Hub for Drones**

On November 1, 2011, after the first test flight of a Montana made drone designed for commercial uses was conducted in Montana, Zinke said, “Montana is well-positioned to be the hub for testing and development of these platforms.” Zinke said, “Montana is well-positioned to be the hub for testing and development of these platforms.” [Great Falls Tribune, 11/02/11]

### **Zinke: “UAS Industry will Quadruple to \$15 Billion within Five Years”**

In September 2012, after a drone demonstration at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Zinke said that the “UAS industry will quadruple to \$15 billion within five years.” Zinke said, “The U.S. Commerce Department has estimated that the UAS industry will quadruple to about \$15 billion within five years. If Montana can pull in a portion of that industry, with high-paying jobs, it would be a big.” [Great Falls Tribune, 9/12/12]

### **Rep. Denny Rehberg Said Government Spying on Citizens with Drones**

In June 2012, Congressman Denny Rehberg said the government was using drones to spy on citizens. Rehberg wrote, “American citizens should not have to worry that at any moment the government could be monitoring them without their knowledge or consent.” [Jon Tester for Senate, accessed [6/18/14](#)]

### **Said Montana Should Be Part of Discussion for How to Integrate Drones**

In 2010, Zinke said that Montana wanted to “be part o the discussion on how to integrate [drones] into the National Airspace System. Zinke said, “We want to be part of the discussion on how to integrate [drones] into the National Airspace System without impacting general aviation. Montana contains the largest military operations air space in the lower 48.” [Daily Inter Lake, 12/15/10]

### **Proponent of Drone Expansion**

In December 2010, Zinke discussed how Montana should be at the forefront of drone use in nonmilitary settings. Zinke said that drones could be used to help with crop optimization, forest insect infestations, and snow density in mountains. Zinke said, “Montana has had a legacy of letting its resources go downstream. We’ve had difficulty value-adding. We are a resource provider. Rather than to try to save some dying industries, we can be at the forefront of a new one [...] We’re attempting to use our air space, the Big Sky, to bring an emerging industry into Montana. This is an enormous industry that is on the verge of occurring.” [Daily Inter Lake, 12/15/10]

### **Co-Director of Project to Bring Drones to Montana**

In 2010, Zinke was the co-director of the project to bring drones to Montana. In December 2010, research and academic institutions within Montana signed a collaborative agreement with Mississippi State University. Zinke said, “UAS will transition from today’s military-centric role to important civilian applications, such as research, farming and forest management. UAS are ideal tools for conducting a vast array activities that are currently done by more expensive methods, such as satellite imagery or manned aircraft.” [Whitefish Pilot, 12/22/10]

## **BORDER & IMMIGRATION ISSUES**

### **Voted For Including Border Security Activities in Pref. Applications for Defense Dept. Property Transfers**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that would “amend current law to include border security activities to the list of preferred applications the Defense Department considers when transferring excess property to other federal agencies.” The amendment was adopted, 253 to 166. [H.R. 1735, [Vote #232](#), 5/14/15; CQ Floor Votes, [5/14/15](#)]

## GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEES

### Zinke Opposed Plan to Close Gitmo

In 2016, Zinke “criticized a White House plan that would close the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, military prison for suspected terrorists... President Barack Obama proposed closing the detention camp and sending the detainees elsewhere, including to facilities in the United States... Zinke said former detainees have carried out attacks on American troops and its allies once they were released. ‘This president is more concerned with his legacy than he is the safety and well-being of American families and troops,’ he said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/24/16]

### “Navy Seal Commander-Turned-Congressman Ryan Zinke Slams Obama For Plan To Bring Terrorists To America”

In 2016, Zinke said of the plan, “President Obama’s plan to bring terrorists to American soil is absurd, illegal and falls tragically short of the acceptable conduct of the Commander in Chief. I cannot stress enough how dangerous President Obama’s plan is, and the threats it poses to Americans at home and abroad are real. **The President believes these terrorists are reformable**, but I and the men and women I commanded know the truth. I helped put many of these criminals in jail and unfortunately I know the atrocities they’ve committed. **Roughly 30 percent of the former Gitmo detainees have returned to jihad to carry out attacks against American troops and allies.** But Obama does not care. Not only does the President want to transfer these detainees, he wants to bring them to our shores. This President is more concerned with his legacy than he is the safety and wellbeing of American families and troops.” [Zinke House press release via States News Service, 2/23/16]

### Zinke: “There’s a Reason Why Gitmo Was Set Up”



[Twitter, @RepRyanZinke, 1/12/16]

### Zinke Urged The Administration To Reject A Petition From 5 Prisoners At Gitmo Asking That Female Service Members Not Be Allowed To Touch Them

“Lawmakers in both parties are urging the Pentagon to reject a petition from five prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility asking that female service members not be allowed to touch them. A military judge, Col. James Pohl, in January ordered a temporary ‘no touch’ policy for female guards on the base after the detainees — including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks — said contact with female guards violated their religious beliefs. The policy could be made permanent in the coming days, outraging lawmakers on Capitol Hill.” Zinke signed the letter. [The Hill, [12/14/15](#)]

## **Zinke Urged Joint Chiefs to Seek Legal Guidance Before ...Transferring Detainees from Guantanamo Bay**

“House Republicans who have served in the military are urging the Joint Chiefs of Staff to seek legal guidance before following any orders from the President Obama to transfer detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the United States. In letter Monday, Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan) and 15 of his veteran colleagues, told the Joint Chiefs to seek appropriate legal advice, prior to executing any order from the president.” Zinke signed the letter. [The Hill, [11/23/15](#)]

## **Zinke: “I Have Sent Terrorists To Guantanamo Bay – Just To Have This President Release Them.”**

In July 2015, Zinke said on Facebook: “This week, I am joining Congressman and Marine Major Duncan Hunter in introducing legislation to enhance security at Armed Forces recruiting centers by allowing our expertly trained military members to defend themselves from attacks. Radical Islamic terrorism has reached the homeland. This is not a new threat, yet the White House continues to dismiss it as workplace violence, lone-wolves, and ‘senseless violence.’ Mr. President, I disagree. I have fought for and defended America in the Middle East. I have sent terrorists to Guantanamo Bay – just to have this President release them. And, as a 23-year officer in the Navy SEALs, I have laid more American heroes to rest than I care to count. The only thing that makes their loss more difficult, is not taking action to prevent future loss. Congress must send a clear and absolute message that this cowardly attack will not be ignored, and our heroes did not die in vain. I also urge all Members to join me in flying the Marine Globe and Anchor Flag outside their DC offices this week.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [7/21/15](#)]

## **Zinke Voted Against Striking New Restrictions to Prevent Obama from Closing Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Schiff, D-Calif., amendment that would strike four sections of the bill which add new restrictions to prevent the Obama Administration from closing the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp.” The amendment was rejected 176-246. [CQ, [6/16/15](#); H.Amdt.513 to H.R. 2596, Vote 367, [6/16/15](#)]

## **Voted Against Prohibiting Funding For Defense Counsel For Foreign Detainees At Guantanamo Bay**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to “prohibit use of funds to provide for defense counsel for any foreign detainee at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention facility.” The amendment failed, 133-297. [HR 2685, [Vote #355](#); CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

## **Voted Against Ending Warrantless “Backdoor” Surveillance**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against restricting the use of “funds to query a collection of foreign intelligence information acquired under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 using a United States person identifier. The amendment also would bar use of funds by the National Security Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency to mandate that a company alter products or services to permit electronic surveillance of users, except for mandates or requests authorized under the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act.” The amendment passed, 255-174. [HR 2685, [Vote #356](#); CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

## **Amendment Would End Spying On American Citizens Whose Data Was Incidentally Collected During Foreign Surveillance**

“The House passed legislation Thursday that would prevent the NSA from spying on American citizens whose data was incidentally collected during foreign dragnets, marking the second year in a row that the lower chamber has put the kibosh on backdoor domestic spying. Sponsored by Reps. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., and Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., the amendment to the Department of Defense spending bill was approved in a 255-174 vote across party lines.” [Intercept, [6/12/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment To Remove Additional Restrictions On Closing Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would strike four sections of the Intelligence Authorization Act which add new restrictions to prevent the Obama Administration from closing the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp. The amendment failed 176 to 246. [HR 2596, [Vote #367](#), 6/16/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/16/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Increasing Airport And Cyber Security**

#### **Voted Against Motion To Require Communication Across The National Intelligence Community To Increase Airport And Cyber Security**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a motion that would add language to the Intelligence Authorization Act to “deter terrorist attacks, and strengthen America’s cybersecurity by requiring intelligence agencies to share with the Transportation Safety Administration the latest info on terrorist attempts to thwart airport security and who’s on the terrorist watch list; and foil and counter state-sponsored cyberattacks by China, Russia, and others that resulted in OPM hacks, and theft of personal health information of 80 million Americans from Anthem Health and Blue Cross Blue Shield.” The motion failed 183 to 240. [HR 2596, [Vote #368](#), 6/16/15; Democratic Leader, [6/16/15](#)]

### **Voted For Fiscal Year 2016 Intelligence Authorization Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the Intelligence Authorization Act. Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking member on the Select Committee on Intelligence said in a release, “several issues remain unresolved, causing me to vote against the bill. It was my hope that we would have been able to strip restrictions on closing the Guantanamo Bay prison and preclude the use of OCO funds to augment the artificial budget caps set for national security, but unfortunately, we were not able to do so. I will continue to work hard to fix these issues as this bill progresses — the American people deserve nothing less.” The bill passed 247 to 178. [HR 2596, [Vote #369](#), 6/16/15; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence – Democratic Office, [6/16/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Striking Prohibition On Funds For Transferring Guantanamo Bay Detainees**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment “that would strike section 8100 of the bill, which bars funds from being used to transfer or release within the United States, or its territories, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee held at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.” The amendment was rejected, 174-257. [CQ Floor Votes, [6/10/15](#); HR 2685, [Vote #336](#), 6/10/15]

### **Voted Against Striking Prohibition On Funds To Construct Any Facility In U.S. To House Guantanamo Detainees**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment “that would strike section 8101 of the bill, which bars funds from being used to construct, acquire or modify any facility in the United States, or its territories, to house Guantanamo Bay detainees for purposes of imprisonment.” The amendment was rejected, 173-259. [CQ Floor Votes, [6/10/15](#); HR 2685, [Vote #337](#), 6/10/15]

### **Voted Against Striking Prohibition On Funds Being Used To Transfer Detainee From Guantanamo Bay To Home Country Or Any Other Foreign Country**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment “that would strike section 8102 of the bill, which bars funds from being used to transfer any individual detained at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the custody or control of the individual’s home country or any other foreign country except in accordance with the fiscal 2014 defense authorization act.” The amendment was rejected, 181-251. [CQ Floor Votes, [6/10/15](#); HR 2685, [Vote #338](#), 6/10/15]

### **Voted Against Amendment For Banning The Transfer Or Release Of Prisoners From Guantanamo Bay**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, that would “strike section 527 from the bill which prohibits use of funds to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the U.S., its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who is not a U.S. citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the U.S. and is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at the U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.” The amendment failed 170-256. [HR 2578, [Vote #276](#), 6/03/15]

### **Voted For Increasing Restrictions On Transfer Of Guantanamo Detainees To U.S.**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for “lengthen[ing] to two years the bill’s restrictions on the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the U.S. and on construction or modification of facilities in the U.S. to house Guantanamo detainees. It also would prohibit transfers of detainees to Yemen and bar the Defense secretary from using a national security waiver to transfer prisoners to combat zones.” The amendment passed, 243-180. [HR 1725, [Vote #230](#); CQ Floor Votes [5/14/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Closing Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp By 2017**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against “a framework for closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by Dec. 31, 2017. The amendment would remove restrictions in the bill against transferring Guantanamo Bay, Cuba detainees to the U.S., constructing or modifying any facility in the U.S. to house a Guantanamo Bay detainee, and transferring detainees to a combat zone.” The amendment failed, 174-249. [HR 1735, [Vote #231](#); CQ Floor Votes [5/14/15](#)]

### **Measure Would Have Maintained Current Ban Against Transferring Detainees To The US And Prohibiting Facilities To House Detainees On US Soil**

“The legislation maintains the current ban against transferring Guantánamo Bay detainees to the U.S. It also prohibits building facilities to house detainees on U.S. soil.” [The Hill, [5/14/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Preventing Funds To Build, Renovate, Or Expand Detainee Housing Facilities In Guantanamo Bay**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would prevent from being used to build, renovate, or expand housing facilities for detainees in Guantanamo Bay. The amendment failed to pass 167 to 254. [HR 2029, [Vote #187](#); On Agreeing to the Amendment, [4/30/15](#); Section 512 of [HR 2029](#); CQ, [Bill Track](#)]

## **ISIS**

### **Zinke Was On Fox News’ Gretchen Carlson To Discuss ISIS.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [12/18/15](#)] (VIEDO)

### **Zinke Did Not Recommend Sending More Troops to Iraq or Syria, But Loosen Restrictive Rules Of Engagement**

“A U.S. congressman and former Navy SEAL more than six feet tall, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.) was at perhaps one of the few places where he wouldn’t stick out in his service dress blues — Arlington National Cemetery. [...] Zinke’s hard-won experience colors his criticism of the president’s strategy to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Zinke does not necessarily recommend sending more U.S. ground troops to Iraq or Syria, as some other critics have suggested, but would loosen what he says are overly restrictive rules of engagement in the war for the 3,500-plus U.S. troops in Iraq who are now fighting it. He said ISIS is aware of the U.S.’s rules of engagement, and their fighters know how to avoid getting hit. That combined with having to get Iraq’s permission before engaging targets is making it easier for ISIS fighters to get away. ‘I’m concerned we are putting forces into harm’s way without the rules of engagement advantageous to win,’ he said. ‘In order to prosecute war, you have to take some risk.’ He said he is the ‘last person’ to advocate going to war. But

when you have to, he added, you want to make sure troops have the right equipment, the right training and the right rules of engagement. 'Putin drops bombs. We drop leaflets.' [The Hill, [12/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said POTUS Address To American People On ISIS And Terrorism Was An Attempt To Defend His Mistakes**

In December 2015, Zinke posted on Facebook: "Last night, the President spoke to the American people from the Oval Office. What should have been an address to reassure the people that yes, the commander-in-chief is in charge and will eliminate the threat of radical Islamic terrorism, the President chose to instead deliver empty rhetoric. President Obama was more concerned with defending his mistakes than defending our nation. Here is what the President should have said: The attack in California last week was an act of radical Islamic terrorism. From Russia and Egypt to Beirut to Paris to California to London, it is clear that ISIS is not contained. The threat abroad is growing as ISIS looks to expand its caliphate that is already the size of Indiana." [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [12/7/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "The United States Must Arm The Kurds" To Defeat ISIS**

In December 2015, Zinke posted on Facebook: "We can stop this though. The United States must build and lead a strong, multi-national coalition with the support of Arab nations and regional tribes. The United States must arm the Kurds. A campaign of limited air strikes alone is not working and will be updated to allow our pilots to hit their targets efficiently and effectively. The U.S. will bring a force package strong enough to defeat and destroy ISIS before they expand farther. We must give support to the 50 special operations personnel who are on the ground, that includes a quick reaction force, medivac, intelligence and logistical support. Lastly, we must give our troops the right rules of engagement to win and win decisively on the field of battle." [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [12/7/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Threat Of American Homegrown Terrorism Could Be Defeated By Passing The SAFE Act, Reforming The VISA Program And Securing The Southern Border**

In December 2015, Zinke posted on Facebook: "On the home front, our nation faces a triple threat from terrorists stemming from homegrown, legal and illegal immigration. These threats can and will be defeated by working together to pass important legislation like the SAFE Act, which the House already passed, visa reforms, and securing our southern border." [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [12/7/15](#)]

### **Zinke Joined *Fox And Friends* To Discuss Global Warming And ISIS.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke, [12/2/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke: "While POTUS In Paris Hying Global Warming, Secdef Carter Admits Global Warming Not Top Threat, ISIS Is."**

[Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [12/1/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said POTUS Highlighting Climate Change In France Would Not Defeat ISIS**

"Rep. Zinke: Climate change is not going to defeat ISIS - FoxTV Business News." [FOX Business, [11/30/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke: "We Are Going To Have To Show [Our Allies] We Are A Reliable Partner In" The Fight To Defeat ISIS**

"Q: What should be our military strategy against the Islamic State? A: I don't think you can do it any worse than we've been doing. I'm concerned you have Russian aircraft that could be potentially flying over the forces that we're trying to help. The agreement with Russia I saw simply is 'don't bump into each other' and a 'don't target each other's air assets.' But it doesn't speak to ground forces and whether you are going to engage. We have a case where we're helping anti-Assad forces and they're helping pro-Assad forces. ISIS tends to sit in the middle as a common enemy but the boundaries are not clear. ISIS isn't wearing blue jerseys, we're not wearing white and Russia's not wearing red, so the operational picture is much more difficult. It will take an engagement

with our allies in the area, and we are going to have to show them we are a reliable partner in this.” [Stars and Stripes, [11/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke On ISIS: “I Would Be In Support Of Giving The Military Commanders More Latitude”**

“The French bombardment of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) targets in the wake of the Paris terror attacks has U.S. officials fielding questions about why those targets were not already hit in the air campaign against the terror group, which has lasted for more than a year. [...] Lawmakers and experts critical of the ‘zero casualty’ standard have pointed out that it is stricter than what is required under the Law of War. ‘I would be in support of giving the military commanders more latitude in their rules of engagement, rather than be restricted to the point we’re tying someone’s hands behind their back,’ said Zinke, a former member of SEAL Team Six.” [The Hill, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “If I Were ISIS, What I Would Do Is Collocate My Headquarters Next To A School Or A Hospital”**

“The French bombardment of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) targets in the wake of the Paris terror attacks has U.S. officials fielding questions about why those targets were not already hit in the air campaign against the terror group, which has lasted for more than a year. One reason, according to Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), a retired Navy SEAL commander and Iraq War veteran, is that France operates under less-restrictive rules of engagement. ‘Under our rules of engagement, if I were ISIS, what I would do is collocate my headquarters next to a school or a hospital and ensure that there would be collateral damage,’ Zinke told *The Hill*. ‘They know our rules of engagement as well as we do,’ he added. ‘They operate with impunity.’ [The Hill, [11/19/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed That Some Law Makers In D.C. Were Not Taking The Threat Of ISIS “Seriously”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT), a retired Navy SEAL Team Six commander, says the U.S. should stop bringing in refugees until they can be properly vetted. [...] Zinke, a former commander of U.S. special forces in Iraq, told Breitbart News Daily that the elites in Washington, D.C. do not ‘understand the level of evil’ facing the U.S. military abroad. ‘I think the number one job of America is to protect its citizens and there is this sense that ‘oh it’s somewhere else or it really isn’t that bad’ ...not everyone in DC is takin it seriously,’ added the 23-year military veteran.” [Breitbart, [11/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called Freezing Refugee Processing “Prudent” and Said Obama Did It in 2011 for Iraqis**



**Ryan Zinke** @RyanZinke · 18 Nov 2015

Freezing refugee processing in the wake of the Paris attack is prudent. Obama did it in 2011 for Iraqi refugees, why does he refuse to now?

[Twitter, @RyanZinke, 11/18/15]

### **Breitbart: “[Zinke] Pointed Out That Women Are Being Used As Recruiters For ISIS.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)44% , a retired Navy SEAL Team Six commander, says the U.S. should stop bringing in refugees until they can be properly vetted. [...] The State Department recently claimed that the majority of Syrian refugees coming into the United States are women and children, noting that only 2 percent of those already in the country are military-aged males with no family. ‘You know it doesn’t take but one and...women have strapped on suicide vests, children have killed our troops,’ Zinke told Breitbart News Daily. He also pointed out that women are being used as recruiters for ISIS. Congress’ only SEAL veteran recently introduced legislation along with Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC)57% , titled ‘The American Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act,’ to strengthen the refugee screening process.” [Breitbart, [11/18/15](#)]

## **Zinke Expressed Concern About the Security of the U.S. After Paris Attacks & Vetting Process for Syrian Refugees**

“Representative Ryan Zinke (R-MT) talked to reporters about the security of the U.S. after the Paris attacks and the vetting process for Syrian refugees after the closed briefing from federal officials.” [CSPAN, [11/17/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **Zinke Said He Did Not View The Terrorist Attacks In Paris As Mere “Setback[s].”**

“Today, Montana Congressman and former Commander of Joint Special Forces in Iraq, U.S. Navy SEAL Commander (ret.) Ryan Zinke called on House Leadership to bring two pieces of legislation to the floor in order to block President Obama’s plan to bring tens of thousands of unscreened Syrian refugees to the United States. [...] ‘My heart is heavy for the people of Paris, Beirut and other nations affected by ISIS terrorists. I do not view these attacks as merely a ‘setback.’ Last year, President Obama called ISIS the ‘JV team,’ and he blindly claimed ISIS is ‘contained’ just hours before the Paris attacks, but he could not have been more gravely wrong. The United States should have stepped up and destroyed ISIS at its origins, rather than wait until ISIS grew their capabilities and influence. Now, we face not only ISIS in Syria and Iraq, but also across the globe, and potentially here at home.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [11/16/15](#)]

## **Zinke Was On ABC News And Discussed ISIS And The Vetting Process For Syrian Refugees.**

[ABC News, [11/17/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **Zinke Was Interviewed On CNN’s The Lead With Jake Tapper To Discuss ISIS Expanding Their Footprint And Terror Capabilities.**

[YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke, [11/13/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **On FOX News, Zinke Discussed TSA Testing, ISIS, Russian Plane Crash & POTUS Plan In The Middle East.**

[FOX News, FOX and Friends, [11/6/15](#)]

## **Zinke: “Tactics Like Having Teams On The Ground Who Can Call In Air Strikes & ...Directly Arming The Kurds”**

“Apparently it takes Vladamir Putin’s military campaign in Syria to show President Obama that his strategy against ISIS is not working, has not worked, and will never work. Since day one I’ve been calling for a stronger campaign against ISIS and other radical Islamic terrorist organizations. But simply sending our troops into harm’s way will not solve the problem. We need to give our men and women on the battlefield all the tools, resources and rules of engagement necessary for them to win and win decisively, while lessening the threats and vulnerabilities they face on the battlefield. Proven tactics like having teams on the ground who can call in air strikes and provide quick reaction and medevac support, as well as embedding troops with our allies and directly arming the Kurds should be on the table. Being fully committed and allowing our troops to do their jobs is the only way we will destroy ISIS and eliminate the threat that organization poses to the U.S. and our interests around the globe.” [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [10/27/15](#)]

## **Zinke: “I Think The Way Ahead Is Make Sure We Arm The Kurds.”**

In July 2015 Zinke was interviewed on CNN. “KEILAR: We heard from the new leader of AQAP today, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen, Abu Hureira al-Sanaani, and he gave his first speech since he succeeded al-Wuhayshi, who was taken out by the U.S. in a drone strike, as the head of this organization. He’s the new AQAP leader. What do you know about this guy? What concerns you about him? ZINKE: He’s dangerous. He’s an ideologue. Clearly, ISIS has an agenda of evil. You’re not going to reform ISIS. And, quite frankly, our policy of air operations alone and very limited strikes, it is not going to work, it hasn’t worked. It’s not just me. It’s General Abizaid, General Conway, those that I fought in Fallujah with. We all agree. We all assess. I think the way ahead is make sure we arm the Kurds. We look at Syria and have a policy in Syria, probably root out ISIS in the Syrian desert and then Iran. As long as Iran has the influence they do within the

territory of Iraq, the Sunnis are not going to invest in a centralized government and Iraq will continue to move in a three-state nation.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [7/9/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Limiting Funds For Military Action Against ISIS Without Congressional Authorization Of War**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would have “halted funding for the war against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, after March 31, 2016, unless Congress passes an Authorization for the Use of Military Force. The amendment, an effort to spur a war authorization debate and vote in Congress, would have given lawmakers nine months to produce an AUMF before funds get cut off.” The amendment failed, 196-231. [H.R. 2685, [Vote #346](#), 6/11/15; Huffington Post, [6/11/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Prohibiting Funds for 2001 Use of Military Force to Justify Military Campaign Against ISIS**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would “prohibit use of funds pursuant to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force after Dec. 31, 2015,” which President Obama cited as “legal justification for unilaterally launching a military campaign against ISIS.” The amendment failed, 157-270. [H.R. 2685, [Vote #347](#), 6/11/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#); Huffington Post, [6/11/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Prohibiting Funds For 2002 Use Of Military Force To Justify Military Campaign Against ISIS**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would “prohibit use of funds pursuant to the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq,” which President Obama cited as “legal justification for unilaterally launching a military campaign against ISIS.” The amendment failed, 165-264. [H.R. 2685, [Vote #348](#), 6/11/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#); Huffington Post, [6/11/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Arm The Sunnis. Help Them With Logistics.”**

BLITZER: “Without the central government of Baghdad? Because that will infuriate the prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, and his team over there, largely Shiite-led team.” ZINKE: “Well, to this point, they have given no support to the Sunnis at all. That’s part of the problem. The Sunnis no longer recognize the centralized government as a legitimate power. The Shia militia that is moving around is calling out war crimes that are anti-Sunni. So, the Sunnis are in a tough spot. Do they move to an ISIS, which is a radical Islamic terrorist organization? Or do they defend themselves? Or do they give up? So, I think we do look at the tribal relationships that we had. Arm the Sunnis. Help them with logistics. But at the core of it, we have to change our tactics on the ground. Figure out what we are going to do with Sunni. And how are we going to remove Iranian influence to the extent it is in the territory of Iraq.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said America Should Arm The Sunni Tribes Directly**

BLITZER: “What do you do to liberate Ramadi from ISIS?” ZINKE: “I think you look at the Sunni tribes we fought with. And I fought with a lot of them. They’re still willing to fight. But they’re not going to fight unless we show resolve.” BLITZER: “And so should the U.S. be arming them directly?” ZINKE: “I think so.” [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/10/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Eliminating Funds To Equip Iraq and Kurdish Military To Fight ISIS**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment “to further eliminate the \$715 million allocated for equipping the Iraqi government and Kurdish military forces against ISIS.” The amendment was rejected, 56-375. [[The Hill](#), [6/10/15](#); HR 2685, [Vote #342](#), 6/10/15]

### **Zinke Said He Trusted America’s Military Advisors But Did Not Trust “This Administration”**

BLITZER: “All right, so when you’re a Navy SEAL, you salute, you obey, you go follow the mission, you give -- they give you an order, you do it. You are a United States Congressman right now. Do you trust the guys who are making these decisions, the men and women at the Pentagon, the White House, the intelligence community?”

Do they know what they're doing?" ZINKE: "I trust our military advisers. What I don't trust is this administration, when his core group around -- his advisers. I think they're giving him bad advice. And I don't think it is the military in this case. I think -- I have spoken to the senior military officers. They understand. Former military officers, General Abizaid, General Conway all say the same thing. Air operations alone will not be effective. We knew this coming in. We have seen it where we have emboldened Iraq -- the ISIS forces. And now we have fewer options, but the options today still are, I think, arm the Kurds, find the Sunni Shia that will fight. Make sure they have the logistics, and what they need to fight. And figure out a policy about what we are going to do about the central problem is Iran." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Said We Need To Support The Kurds To Defeat ISIS And It Was A "Multiple Problem Solution."**

BLITZER: "What would you change, Congressman? What would you -- what do you want to see happen? And you served there. You speak with authority." ZINKE: "Well, I think you look at the Kurds. I think we need to arm the Kurds directly, support the Kurds." BLITZER: "And forget about the Baghdad government?" ZINKE: "Well, for now, because the question is, what about Iran?" BLITZER: "All right, but the Kurds are not going to go into Ramadi in the Anbar province. They're going to protect their territory. They're not going to go protect Sunni territory or Shia territory." ZINKE: "No, and nor are they going to go into Mosul because of the refugee problem. So, it's really a multiple problem, solution." [CNN, Situation Room, 6/10/15]

**Zinke: "ISIS Is Sophisticated. They Have An Organization Like A Cabinet."**

[17:15:10] BLITZER: "Let's talk about Iraq. You served in Iraq. You were a Navy SEAL. This dam near Ramadi. Clearly, ISIS controls it. They're shutting it down. Water going to the more moderate Sunni tribes, for example. They lose that water, it's over." ZINKE: "Well, what we're seeing is, ISIS is sophisticated. They have an organization like a cabinet. They have ministries of defense and ministries of information, and propaganda, and finance, and municipalities. And when they move in they do control the structure, as well as taxes, critical infrastructure. These are very talented individuals at doing what they're doing. A lot of them were former Sunni commanders, from the Saddam Hussein, you know, era. So when they go in and control an area, they look at what's critical, and certainly in that area, water remains the most critical resource." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/4/15](#)]

**Zinke: "1st Person That Was Killed, ISIS, Was A Poor Woman From Great Falls, Montana, There, Decapitated"**

BLITZER: "I want to get to what's going on in Iraq right now. That Ramadi dam and all that other stuff, but do you believe that U.S. law enforcement, the FBI and others, are really equipped adequately to deal with this apparently emerging, growing ISIS threat to the United States?" ZINKE: "Well, this is a dynamic threat, as you point out. No, I don't think they are. But I do think we need to take steps revoking passports for ISIS fighters that are U.S. citizens abroad, when you do address women joining ISIS ranks. WE need to close our southern border down. There's a lot of things we can do within the United States that we're not doing. But it's a serious threat. And by the way, the first person that was killed, ISIS, was a poor woman from Great Falls, Montana, there, decapitated in a parking lot in Oklahoma. So as far as way as Montana from Washington, D.C., it affects us, too." [CNN, 6/04/15]

**Zinke Said The First ISIS Casualty In The United States Was A Woman From Great Falls, Montana**

In June 2015, Zinke tweeted: "ISIS is certainly a threat here at home. The first casualty here in the states was a woman from Great Falls Montana." [Twitter, @RepRyanZinke, [6/4/15](#)]

**Zinke Said Number Released By The State Department Of ISIS Fighters Killed Was "Speculative At Best."**

[17:21:45] BLITZER: "We're back with Republican Congressman Ryan Zinke of Montana. He's a former Navy SEAL commander. He's a member of the Armed Services Committee. What do you think about all these body counts that we're getting? You heard the deputy secretary of state, Tony Blinken, say that the U.S.

airstrikes over the past nearly a year have killed 10,000 ISIS fighters? Now they're saying maybe in the last -- that was an old number. Now it's really 13,000. How do they know that?" ZINKE: "Well, it's reminiscent of the Vietnam War. How do they get to these figures? The number of bombs dropped? Pounds of ordnance? Certainly, we have no forces on the ground to verify it. And our intelligence is done by air. I think the numbers are speculative at best." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The State Department Released The Numbers To Create "An Overall Dialogue That We're Winning" The War On ISIS**

BLITZER: "So what's the point of releasing numbers like this? Because it's simply to reassure the public that these airstrikes are working? Is that it?" ZINKE: "Well, perhaps it's an overall dialogue that we're winning. Clearly, we're not winning. Air operations alone has been a dismal failure, and we continue to lose ground. And it seems every day a policy is, again, is in free fall, but there remains threats. What are we going to do with Syria? What are we going to do with Iran? What happens if Iran gets a nuclear weapon, and can you remove the Iranian influence out of the eastern side of Iraq? Right now, I don't see any indication they're leaving anytime soon." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Our Intelligence On ISIS Was "Dismal" Because We Were Using Social Media**

BLITZER: "You heard Barbara Starr, Pentagon correspondent, report just a little while ago, they're using social media to try to pinpoint where to attack, since they don't have forward control personnel on the ground. They get, they see something going on in social media, and then they launch a strike. Does that make sense to you?" ZINKE: "Well, it makes sense up until it's reported, and then, of course, ISIS is sophisticated. They'll look at it, and they'll probably do a series of false leads. Certainly, Facebook, social media, has become an important part of recruiting and communications. And that will continue. They'll be -- they'll be careful on what they present and where they present. But to -- look at our intelligence feeds from Facebook and their social media, it shows how dismal our intelligence is." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said U.S. Should Revoke "Passports For ISIS Fighters" & "Close Our Southern Border"**

BLITZER: "I want to get to what's going on in Iraq right now. That Ramadi dam and all that other stuff, but do you believe that U.S. law enforcement, the FBI and others, are really equipped adequately to deal with this apparently emerging, growing ISIS threat to the United States?" ZINKE: "Well, this is a dynamic threat, as you point out. No, I don't think they are. But I do think we need to take steps revoking passports for ISIS fighters that are U.S. citizens abroad, when you do address women joining ISIS ranks. WE need to close our southern border down. There's a lot of things we can do within the United States that we're not doing. But it's a serious threat. And by the way, the first person that was killed, ISIS, was a poor woman from Great Falls, Montana, there, decapitated in a parking lot in Oklahoma. So as far as way as Montana from Washington, D.C., it affects us, too." [CNN, 6/04/15]

### **Zinke Discussed ISIS, Iran, Iraq & Obama Administration's "Armchair Quarterback" Military Ops**

"Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke joined Fox News' America's News HQ to discuss ISIS, Iraq and the Obama Administration's "armchair quarterback" approach to military operations." [YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT), [5/30/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke On Fall Of Ramadi: "But This Is What Happens When You Don't Have An Intelligence Background"**

KEILAR: "You served in Ramadi, if I am not mistaken. Is that right?" ZINKE: "I did, Fallujah and Ramadi. And it..." KEILAR: "So, what is it like looking at -- depending on the hour, you are hearing Iraqi security forces having the upper hand over ISIS, but it's this back and forth that is going on." ZINKE: "Well, Ramadi is a fairly large city, about 900,000. It's enormously difficult in interior to do operations. They left the headquarters, and I think the headquarters more or less is symbolic. It doesn't lead to a greater plan of what to do about retaking Ramadi as a whole. When you have a script where we say we are just going to do air operations alone within the territory of Iraq, what happens is the forces then that we want to target will move

their forces, colocate with hospitals, schools, embed themselves to be very, very difficult to conduct air operations against. But this is what happens when you don't have an intelligence background, when you don't have embedded troops that can judge what targets are in, what targets are out. In the case of Syria, it was an isolated case. He was not in the top 10. So, it's not going to change the tide and the stem of what is going on in Syria or Iraq or the Middle East, but it's enormously helpful, I think. And I applaud the administration for going after this individual and looking at operations in the future." [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [5/17/15](#); YouTube, Congressman Ryan Zinke, [5/17/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Discussed The Fall Of Ramadi, Iraq, Iran, & The Release Of Information About Documents From SEAL Team 6 bin Laden Raid**

"This past weekend, Congressman Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) joined Breitbart Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow for a special Memorial Day edition of Breitbart News Radio. Zinke shared with the listening audience his insights into the fall of the city of Ramadi, Iraq, to the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) and the release of information about documents from the Navy SEAL Team Six Osama bin Laden raid. Marlow informed listeners that Zinke previously led SEAL Team Six, asking for a thirty thousand-foot view of his perspective on the release of documents and information from the bin Laden raid. Zinke said most of his career in the military was spent in planning, preparing, and the occasional conflict, while many service members today face more combat, entering the service while in war. He then reflected on the effect of social media that facilitates the quick spread of news." [Breitbart News, [5/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed Most Of His Career In The Military Was Spent In Planning, Preparing, And The Occasional Conflict**

"This past weekend, Congressman Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) joined Breitbart Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow for a special Memorial Day edition of Breitbart News Radio. Zinke shared with the listening audience his insights into the fall of the city of Ramadi, Iraq, to the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) and the release of information about documents from the Navy SEAL Team Six Osama bin Laden raid. Marlow informed listeners that Zinke previously led SEAL Team Six, asking for a thirty thousand-foot view of his perspective on the release of documents and information from the bin Laden raid. Zinke said most of his career in the military was spent in planning, preparing, and the occasional conflict, while many service members today face more combat, entering the service while in war. He then reflected on the effect of social media that facilitates the quick spread of news." [Breitbart News, [5/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Knew Anbar Province In Iraq Well, Claimed He Was Deployed To Fallujah When The City Became A Hot Point Of Conflict**

"Marlow referenced Zinke's prior position as a leader for SEAL Team Six and his involvement in successfully defending Ramadi, Iraq. ISIS overtook Ramadi Sunday, May 17. Marlow asked the former SEAL Team leader for his reaction to seeing Ramadi fall to ISIS and what type of leadership America is currently exhibiting. Specifying his position as deputy acting commander of Special Forces in Iraq, Zinke described knowing the Anbar province well. He further elaborated that he was deployed to Fallujah when the city became a hot point of conflict. Zinke described Ramadi as key and central to the region." [Breitbart News, [5/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke: "Iraq Has Devolved Under This Administration To The Point That I'm Not Sure That Iraq Can Sustain Itself As A Unified Nation."**

"In the past week, as Ramadi fell to ISIS, the Obama administration dismissed the fall of Ramadi as inconsequential. White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said, 'Are we going to light our hair on fire every time that there is a setback in the campaign against ISIL?' Zinke pointed to Iran as a serious threat: 'Iran now has an enormous amount of influence in direct coordination with centralized government in eastern Iraq.' 'The end result is you have a divided Iraq,' he said. 'Iraq has devolved under this administration to the point that I'm not sure that Iraq can sustain itself as a unified nation.'" [Breitbart News, [5/25/15](#)]

**Zinke Was On Voices Of Montana Where He Discussed The Patriot Act And The Fall Of Ramadi, Iraq To ISIS.** [Northern Broadcasting, Voices of Montana, [5/21/15](#)] (AUDIO)

### **Zinke Attached Downplaying The Islamic State's Potential Take Over Of Ramadi**

“Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has come under fire from lawmakers and veteran groups for downplaying the strategic importance of Ramadi in Anbar, Iraq’s largest province, potentially falling to the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL). [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT), a former Navy SEAL leader who served in Iraq, told Breitbart News that Ramadi is in fact important to defeating and degrading ISIS. ‘It’s certainly strategically important for Sunnis, for Iraqi Sunnis,’ declared the member of the House Armed Services Committee. ‘It was certainly strategically important for the U.S. when the U.S. was fighting there and, so, yes it is strategically important because it sends a signal that the U.S. is going to be a partner, but also I think most importantly it sends a signal to the disenfranchised Sunni population.’ [Breitbart, [4/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “To Degrade And Defeat Them We Will Need The Sunni Tribes, The Kurds, And The Centralized Government.”**

Zinke said, “We need Sunni tribes in order to defeat ISIS. To degrade and defeat them we will need the Sunni tribes, the Kurds, and the centralized government. And if we are to separate and isolate the Islamic terrorist organizations from mainstream Islam, we’re going to need the Sunni tribes help in reaching that goal.” [Breitbart, [4/20/15](#)]

## **OSAMA BIN LADEN**

### **Said that Killing bin Laden “Was the Only Call”**

In November 2012, in a video for Veterans for a Strong America, Zinke, when referring to the killing of Osama bin Laden, said, “Do I think it was a gutsy call? I think it was the only call.” Zinke said, “Well, as a member of the loyal opposition, I compliment the President for making the call. It was his call. Do I think it was a gutsy call? I think it was the only call. When you look at what happened, when you find where he’s at and this is the most notorious terrorist in the history of my lifetime, and arguably in the world. When you have a location, a time, and an opportunity to go after him, I don’t think there’s any choice, you had to go after him. And he did the right thing to go after him. It wasn’t the operation, it wasn’t all him. It was years in the making. There was at least 5,000 troops from every service involved. I think of the testimony to the dedication of the US military, that the operation was conducted as it was, successful. But the resources, the special operations and the teamwork, was really a compliment, I think, to the military as a whole, and not just the Commander-in-Chief.” [YouTube, [11/03/12](#)]

### **Supported the Possibility of Cutting off Relations with China**

On Zinke’s internet radio program, Trust, Leadership and American Exceptionalism with Commander Z, Zinke said he supported cutting off all relations with China because of its relationship with North Korea. Zinke said, “We need to leverage China, even if it means cut off everything we’re doing with China because the rogue nation of that type is an issue.” [Radioactive Broadcasting, accessed [5/19/14](#)]

### **Called Obama’s “Bump in the Road” Comment “Naïve”**

In September 2012, while on the Fox News Show On the Record, Zinke called Obama’s “bump in the road” comment, when Obama was talking about the situation in the Middle East, “naïve.” Zinke said, “Well, I think they were naive. And when the world was on fire, you have a president that’s going to Las Vegas. You have a president that fails to meet the prime minister of Israel when Israel could very potentially, you know, launch alone against Iran. And the comment about that there are bumps in the road when we have an ambassador that’s drug through the streets and the death of two SEALs I think is -- is misguided and horrendous and naïve.” [On the Record, 9/26/12]

### **Zinke: “President Refuses to Admit that His Policy of Appeasement and Apology Has Failed”**

In October 2010, *Investor’s Business Daily* quoted Zinke: “the president refuses to admit that his policy of appeasement and apology has failed.” Zinke said, “The president refuses to admit that his policy of appeasement and apology has failed. The murder of our ambassador and two former Navy SEALs is more than a ‘bump in the road;’ it is a global catastrophe where America is seen as being weak and vulnerable by our enemies.” [Investor’s Business Daily, 10/22/10]

### **Called Decision to Kill bin Laden a “No Brainer”**

In May 2012, Zinke said the decision to kill Osama bin Laden was a “no brainer.” Zinke said, “The decision was a no brainer. I applaud him for making it but I would not overly pat myself on the back for making the right call. I think every president would have done the same. He is justified in saying it was his decision but the preparation, the sacrifice - it was a broader team effort.” [Business Insider, 5/01/12]

### **Added that Obama was Exploiting bin Laden’s Death for His Re-Election**

Zinke added that Obama was exploiting bin Laden’s death for his re-election bid. Zinke said, “The President and his administration are positioning him as a war president using the SEALs as ammunition. It was predictable.” [MailOnline, 5/01/12]

### **Zinke: When You Disclose a Specific Team it Puts “Members at Home and Abroad at Risk”**

In July 2012, on *Lou Dobbs Tonight*, Zinke said that when you disclose the identity of a specific SEAL team, it puts its members at risk. Zinke said, “But when you disclose a specific team, you know, what it does is it puts that team, the dependents and the military, you know, members at home and abroad at risk. That’s what we have to stop. We have to stop the continuing leaks that put our troops at risk, as well as the rules of engagement overseas. I mean, when you look at what’s happening.” [Lou Dobbs Tonight, 7/26/12]

*NOTE: Zinke disclosed that he belong to SEAL Team Six and rumored that Zinke actually disclosed team first.*

## **TERRORIST THREATS**

### **Zinke Voted To Sanction Foreign Financial Institutions That Facilitate Transactions Or Money Laundering On Behalf Of Hezbollah Or Its Agents**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Royce, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that, as amended, would sanction foreign financial institutions that facilitate transactions or money laundering on behalf of Hezbollah or its agents. The bill would direct the president to prohibit opening or maintaining an account in the United States by a foreign financial institution that knowingly facilitates Hezbollah or a person or activity of Hezbollah. The measure would make entities who violate this prohibition subject to monetary fines or prison terms. Further, the bill would allow the president to waive the sanctions on a case-by-case basis in the interest of the United States’ national security. The bill also would require the president to submit reports to Congress on Hezbollah’s transnational criminal activities and would require the State and Treasury departments to submit reports on Hezbollah’s assets and international fundraising and financial activities.” The motion was agreed to by a 425-0 vote. [CQ, [12/16/15](#); H.R. 2297, Vote 698, [12/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Require NID To Submit Regular Reports To Congress On Terrorist Safe Havens**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “LoBiondo, R-N.J., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the National Intelligence Director (DNI) to submit regular reports to Congress on terrorist safe havens. Specifically, the DNI would be required to prepare a report on each terrorist safe haven, including the total number of foreign fighters who have traveled to or are suspected of having traveled to the safe haven since 2011; the countries of origin of these foreign fighters; the total number of U.S. citizens in the safe haven; and the total number of foreign fighters who have left the safe haven or whose whereabouts are unknown. The bill would allow the reports to be classified, but would require the DNI to include an unclassified summary.” The motion was agreed to by a 423-0 vote. [CQ, [12/16/15](#); H.R. 4239, Vote 700, [12/16/15](#)]

**Zinke: “After The California Incident, The Reality Is That Terrorism Can Take The Form Of A Woman, A Child.”**

“The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed legislation to tighten the visa process earlier this week because ‘terrorism comes in all shapes and sizes,’ Rep. Ryan Zinke told Newsmax TV on Thursday. ‘Just a few weeks ago, the president called out Congress by saying Congress is in fear of women and children,’ the Montana Republican told ‘Newsmax Now’ host Miranda Khan. ‘After the California incident, the reality is that terrorism can take the form of a woman, a child.’ Unfortunately, as a former SEAL commander overseas, I’ve seen children conduct acts of terrorism,’ said Zinke, 54, who served in the elite corps from 1985 to 2008. His tour of duty included Iraq. ‘We have to be very, very prudent and make sure we know who’s coming into this country.’ [Newsmax, [12/10/15](#)]

**Zinke: “As A Former SEAL Commander Overseas, I’ve Seen Children Conduct Acts Of Terrorism.”**

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**Said U.S. Southern & Northern Borders Should Be Watched To Ensure “We Know Who’s Coming Into This Country.”**

“The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed legislation to tighten the visa process earlier this week because ‘terrorism comes in all shapes and sizes,’ Rep. Ryan Zinke told Newsmax TV on Thursday. [...] ‘Our southern border is wide open,’ Zinke told Khan. ‘We need to secure our southern border.’ ‘We need to pay attention to our northern border — and certainly Congress took action on suspending the refugees until we get a clearer idea of what the vetting process is and to make sure we’re assured that we know who’s coming into this country.’ [Newsmax, [12/10/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Terrorism Also Involves Those Who Are Complicit, Those Who Give Weapons To A Terrorism Suspect Or Provide Safe-Haven Harbors”**

“The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed legislation to tighten the visa process earlier this week because ‘terrorism comes in all shapes and sizes,’ Rep. Ryan Zinke told Newsmax TV on Thursday. [...] The freshman congressman added that the legislation took aim at the broader definition of terrorism. ‘A terrorist is more than just an individual that pulls the trigger or ignites the bomb,’ Zinke said. ‘Terrorism also involves those who are complicit, those who give weapons to a terrorism suspect or provide safe-haven harbors, fuel — those types of things.’ ‘So, you had to look at the terrorism as a whole and understand that if you come into this country and your intention is do us harm, we’ll find you.’ [Newsmax, [12/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Said POTUS Refusal To Use The Term “Islamic Terrorism” Was A Threat To America**

“It’s a tragic day anytime Americans are murdered, and Lola and I have been praying for the victims, their families, and the heroic law enforcement professionals in California. As facts of the event and the individuals who carried out this attack emerge, it becomes more clear this was in fact an act of radical Islamic terrorism. We face a triple threat in this nation when it comes to terror: homegrown, legal immigration (visas and refugees), and illegal immigration. And President Obama’s agenda of denial and political correctness in refusing to call out Islamic terrorism is a threat in itself. We must confront the real threat that is attacking us right now. Speak the truth and fear no one. Z.” [Facebook, Campaign Facebook, [12/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “President Is Willing To Give Iran Billions ...To Fund Terrorism And Develop Nuclear Weapons”**

In October 2015, Zinke posted: “I cannot believe it. This President allows Iran to sell their oil but is against America’s ability sell our oil. Now, this President is willing to give Iran billions of dollars to fund terrorism and develop nuclear weapons, but vetoes a bipartisan bill to allow America’s military ability to defend itself. Our troops deserve to know that the Commander in Chief has their back. And when the Commander in Chief does not, it’s a signal that the blood we have shed doesn’t matter.” [Ryan Zinke, Campaign Facebook, [10/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Establish Securing The Cities Program Within DHS**

In October 2015 Zinke voted for a: “Donovan, R-N.Y., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would formally establish the Securing the Cities program within the Homeland Security Department to increase the ability of the United States to detect and prevent terrorist attacks that use nuclear or other radiological materials in high-risk urban areas.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 411-4. [CQ, [10/20/15](#); H.R. 3493, Vote 550, [10/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for DHS to Conduct Terrorism Threat Assessment on Transportation of CBRN Materials**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Donovan, R-N.Y., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the Homeland Security Department to conduct, within 90 days of the bill’s enactment, a terrorism threat assessment regarding the transportation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials in the United States and through the nation’s land borders.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 416-0. [CQ, [10/20/15](#); H.R. 3350, Vote 551, [10/20/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for DHS Program for Emergency Responders’ Anthrax Vaccines & Antimicrobials**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “King, R-N.Y., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would establish a pilot program through the Homeland Security Department (DHS) to provide anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials from the Strategic National Stockpile to emergency responders who request them, and also create tracking systems to monitor vaccine distribution. Additionally, the bill would require the DHS to assess the risk posed by anthrax from an act of terror.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 424-0. [CQ, [7/29/15](#); H.R. 1300, Vote 485, [7/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted for DHS to Gather And Analyze Intelligence On Terrorist Threats Involving CBRN Materials**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: “McSally, R-Ariz., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would direct the Homeland Security Department (DHS) to gather and analyze intelligence on terrorist threats involving chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) materials; and share that information with federal, state, and local authorities.” The motion was agreed to 420-0. [CQ, [6/25/15](#); H.R.2200, Vote 389, [6/25/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The “One Size Fits All Mantra From Washington” Was Not Effective To Combat Terrorists**

“BLITZER: Is there enough manpower at work right now? Do you need more funding for the FBI, for other law enforcement? ZINKE: Well, I think law enforcement’s stretched, particularly what’s happening with the divisiveness and what’s happening in Baltimore and the mistrust of law enforcement in places locally. That has to be shored up, and it can really only happen locally. You know, one step, or one size fits all mantra from Washington, D.C., at the local level oftentimes is not effective. [CQ Newsmaker Transcripts, [6/4/15](#)]

## TRADE

- ✓ Zinke voted repeatedly to block the Reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.
- ✓ He voted against reauthorizing Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and extending the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) for Haiti. But he voted to adopt a rule that would extend TAA programs and the AGOA.
- ✓ He voted to grant the President Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), but voted against TAA programs and previously opposed fast-track authority for the President.
- ✓ He supported the Trans-Pacific Partnership, saying it was “absolutely critical to Montana’s agriculture industry.”

### **Voted to Block Reauthorization Of Export-Import Bank**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for to block consideration of a vote to reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. The previous question carried, 237-180. A vote against the previous question was to force the vote on reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank. [H RES 449, [Vote #529](#), 10/01/15; Democratic Leader, Previous Questions, [10/01/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration To Re-Authorize The Ex-Im Bank**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for to block consideration of a vote to “re-authorize the Export-Import Bank, a self-funded agency that provides certainty and support to American businesses of all sizes that are eager to compete in the global market.” The previous question carried, 243-183. A vote against the previous question would call for an immediate vote to re-authorize the Ex-Im Bank. [H Res 421, [Vote #502](#), 9/17/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Export-Import Bank Reauthorization**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of a vote to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. The previous question carried, 238-179. A vote against the previous question was to force the vote on Export Import Bank Reauthorization. [HR 420, [Vote #497](#), 9/17/15; Congressional Record, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Reauthorizing TAA & Extending AGOA for Haiti**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a trade preferences bill that would reauthorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. “The House Thursday finally sent President Barack Obama a bill to reauthorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which had become a casualty of a protracted fight between the White House and congressional Democrats over fast track. The 286-138 vote on the trade preferences bill (HR 1295) included 175 Democrats, many of whom earlier this month voted against trade assistance, or TAA, measure as part of their strategy to block fast-track Trade Promotion Authority. In the end, only six Democrats voted against TAA. ... The trade preferences bill includes the African Growth and Opportunity Act, known as AGOA, and the Generalized System of Preferences that provides developing nations access to the U.S. market through the duty-free treatment of exports. It also includes preferential duty treatment for certain goods from Haiti. The bill also includes a House-passed provision that would replace a \$700 million cut to Medicare in 2024, originally proposed to help pay for TAA.” The bill passed, 286 to 138. [HR 1295, [Vote #388](#), 6/25/15; CQ News accessed [8/20/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Renewing The Export-Import Bank**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for to block consideration of an “amendment to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.” The previous question carried, 242-180. A vote against the previous question was to force the vote on reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. [H Res 388, [Vote #483](#), 7/29/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [7/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Criticized The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities & Accountability Act Of 2015**

“Ryan Zinke forecast ‘tough waters’ for the nation’s next year and a half at a town hall talk in Bigfork Tuesday night. [...] He used the second bill, ‘Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015,’ or H.R. 1890, to criticize the current system of trade negotiation. The congressmen identified the legislation as a way for government to regulate itself, adding the President could not be trusted to make negotiations.” [Flathead News Group, [7/8/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The President Could Not Be Trusted To Make Negotiations**

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### **Voted Against Ending Prohibition On Using Funds Regarding The Legal Trade And Transport Of Ivory**

In July 2015, Zinke voted against “an amendment to strike section 120 prohibiting use of funds regarding legal trade and transport of ivory.” The amendment failed 189-239. [HR 2822, [Vote #397](#), 7/08/15; H AMDT 553, [7/08/15](#)]

### **Rep. Raul M Grijalva: Amendment Was Introduced After One Ton Of Illegal Ivory Was Found In Philadelphia**

“Last week, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service destroyed more than one ton of illegal African elephant ivory, most of which had been confiscated from a Philadelphia antique dealer named Victor Gordon. All of this ivory – and all of the unknown volume of ivory Gordon sold over the past decade – was not antique, but instead had been made to look so after being removed from recently poached elephants. Sales of illegal ivory fund crime syndicates and terrorist groups, and anyone who has bought or sold any of the ivory that Gordon put into circulation before he was caught is complicit in giving financial support to these organizations, whether intended or not.” [Rep. Raul M Grijalva Letter, [7/07/15](#)]

### **Rep. Raul M Grijalva: Original Bill Blocked Fish And Wildlife From Implementing Ivory Rules**

“This is why we have to end the ivory trade in the United States now. Unfortunately, section 120 of H.R. 2822 would block implementation of Fish and Wildlife Service rules and policies necessary to disrupt ivory markets and ensure that U.S. citizens do not contribute to the ongoing slaughter of African elephants, which are being killed at the rate of one every 15 minutes.” [Raul M Grijalva Letter, [7/07/15](#)]

### **Rep. Raul M Grijalva: Amendment Was Supported By The Humane Society, Defenders Of Wildlife, And National Resources Defense Council**

“This amendment is supported by the following groups: Humane Society of the United States, Defenders of Wildlife, Animal Welfare Institute, Natural Resources Defense Council, Endangered Species Coalition, and Born Free USA.” [Raul M Grijalva Letter, [7/07/15](#)]

### **Voted For Adopting A Rule To Extend Trade Adjustment Programs And The African Growth Opportunity Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the “adoption of the resolution (H Res 338) that would make in order a motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (HR 1295) that would extend Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

programs that help U.S. workers harmed by trade agreements until 2021 and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) through FY 2025.” The rule was adopted 251-176. [H. Res. 338, [Vote #386](#), CQ Floor Votes, [6/25/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Concurring In Senate Amendment To Grant The President Trade Promotion Authority**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). “The House on Thursday took the first step toward resuscitating the White House’s trade agenda by passing legislation granting President Obama fast-track authority ... This is the second time in a week the House has voted to approve the controversial fast-track bill. On Friday, the House voted 219-211 in favor of fast-track, which would make it easier for Obama to complete a sweeping trans-Pacific trade deal ... House Democrats have historically favored TAA, but they voted against it on Friday to kill fast-track, which is deeply opposed by unions and other liberal groups.” The amendment passed 218 to 208. [HR 2146, [Vote #374](#), 6/18/15; The Hill, [6/18/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Blocking Vote On Reauthorization of Export-Import Bank**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for blocking a vote to re-authorize the Export-Import bank. Congressional Republicans failed to take action and the bank’s charter expired. [H Res 319, [Vote #371](#), 6/17/15; USA Today, [7/01/15](#); House Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, accessed [7/08/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted Against Extending TAA Programs That Help U.S. Workers Harmed By Trade Agreements Until 2021**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against: “Ryan, R-Wis., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill that would extend Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs that help U.S. workers harmed by trade agreements until 2021 and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) through FY 2025. The bill would also extend the HOPE and HELP programs for products from Haiti, retroactively renew and extend, through 2017, the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), strengthen U.S. anti-dumping law, and expand opportunities for U.S. businesses in recreational performance footwear and outerwear.” The motion was agreed to 286-138. [CQ, [6/25/15](#); H.R.1295, Vote 388, [6/25/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Extend TAA Programs to U.S. Workers Harmed By Trade Agreements Until 2021**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the resolution (H Res 338) that would make in order a motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (HR 1295) that would extend Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs that help U.S. workers harmed by trade agreements until 2021 and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) through FY 2025.” The resolution was adopted 251-176. [CQ, [6/25/15](#); H.Res.338, Vote 386, [6/25/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Allow TPA To Be Added To Another Bill As An Amendment**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 321) that would make in order a motion to concur in the Senate amendment, with an amendment, to the bill (HR 2146) that would grant Trade Promotion Authority, under which implementing legislation for trade agreements negotiated by the administration would be considered by congress under expedited procedures and could not be amended.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 244-181. [CQ, [6/18/15](#); H.Res. 321, Vote 373, [6/18/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Add TPA To Bill for Public Safety Workers Over 50 to Make Penalty-Free Withdrawals**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Ryan, R-Wis., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (HR 2146) to allow public safety workers over the age of 50 to make penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans, with an amendment that would grant Trade Promotion Authority, under which implementing legislation for trade agreements negotiated by the administration would be considered by Congress under expedited procedures and could not be amended.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 218-208. [CQ, [6/18/15](#); H.Res. 321, Vote 374, [6/18/15](#)]

### **The House Attached Trade Promotion Authority To A Public-Safety Retirement Bill, Which Had Already Passed The House And Senate**

“The U.S. House passed President Barack Obama’s fast-track trade bill, one of the president’s top second-term priorities, with mostly Republican votes a week after a Democratic rebellion almost killed the proposal. The 218-208 House vote Thursday returns the measure to the Senate, which also voted for it last month. Obama wants the expedited trade negotiating authority to help his administration complete a 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership. [...] The fast-track provision was added to a popular public- safety retirement bill, H.R. 2146, that passed the House 407-5 on May 12 and the Senate by voice vote on June 4. It now returns to the Senate for a final vote before it can be sent to Obama for his signature.” [Bloomberg, [6/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Sp. Amendment In The Customs Bill, Creating A Bipartisan Panel on Trade Negotiations**

“Today members of Montana’s agriculture and business communities, national defense experts and conservatives applauded Rep. Ryan Zinke for making the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA) more transparent. Zinke maintained steadfast opposition to the version of TPA the Senate passed in May because he believes President Obama cannot be trusted to make deals on behalf of the American people if the negotiations are not totally transparent. Zinke’s amendment, which is included in the customs bill, will create a bipartisan panel, selected by Congress, that will sit in the trade negotiations and report directly back to Congress. Montana agriculture and business trade groups, unions and constituents need this safeguard against secret deals. For the first time, Congress is now given the ability to fully monitor and shut TPA off if the President steps out of line and violates any of the 150 conditions imposed by Congress.” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [6/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “My Provision Gives Congress Full Oversight Of All Negotiations And Removes The Risk Of Secret Behind Closed Door Deals.”**

“The following statement is from Rep. Ryan Zinke: ‘American Trade and liberty is not free, it is earned every day. Ronald Reagan said it best, ‘trust but verify.’ When there is no trust, then there must be greater transparency. I do not trust the President or his administration as they have demonstrated lawlessness and executive power abuse. I also understand the importance of fair trade and its economic impact to Montana and our national economy. That is exactly why I worked so hard with all parties to strengthen the transparency and accountability provisions in the House version of TPA. ‘My provision gives Congress full oversight of all negotiations and removes the risk of secret behind closed door deals. Coupled with a failsafe trigger that gives Congress the power to stop the negotiation authority should the administration violate the 150 trade mandates, my amendment provides verification and puts the American people at the negotiation table.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [6/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “My Amendment Provides Verification And Puts The American People At The Negotiation Table.”**

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**Zinke: “After Months Of Consulting With Montana’s Agriculture, Manufacturing And Labor Community, It Became Clear We Needed To Work Together To Find A Solution.”**

“The following statement is from Rep. Ryan Zinke: [...] ‘Global trade is critical to Montana’s economy and to our national defense, which is why, as an elected official who is accountable to Montanans. I could not support the Senate version of TPA without making major changes to make it more transparent. After months of consulting with Montana’s agriculture, manufacturing and labor community, it became clear we needed to work together to find a solution that ensures American trade grows, our economy prospers, and we have good paying jobs in the future. In Montana alone, more than 137,000 jobs are supported by global trade; we export more wheat than almost every other state, and coal on the Crow Nation is valued at \$1.5 billion dollars in the Pacific Rim markets. I am proud to join Senator Daines, the Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana Grain Growers, Stockgrowers and others, in ensuring fair trade for Montana businesses, farmers and ranchers.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [6/16/15](#)]

**Zinke Claimed “137,000 Jobs Are Supported By Global Trade” In Montana**

“The following statement is from Rep. Ryan Zinke: [...] ‘Global trade is critical to Montana’s economy and to our national defense, which is why, as an elected official who is accountable to Montanans. I could not support the Senate version of TPA without making major changes to make it more transparent. After months of consulting with Montana’s agriculture, manufacturing and labor community, it became clear we needed to work together to find a solution that ensures American trade grows, our economy prospers, and we have good paying jobs in the future. In Montana alone, more than 137,000 jobs are supported by global trade; we export more wheat than almost every other state, and coal on the Crow Nation is valued at \$1.5 billion dollars in the Pacific Rim markets. I am proud to join Senator Daines, the Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana Grain Growers, Stockgrowers and others, in ensuring fair trade for Montana businesses, farmers and ranchers.’ [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [6/16/15](#)]

**Zinke On TPA: “We Are Talking About Giving Barack Obama — A President Who Negotiates With Rogue Nations Like Iran And Cuba — Exorbitant Authority To Do What He Thinks Is Best.”**

“In an exclusive interview with Breitbart News, former U.S. Navy SEAL Commander Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)40% confirmed that he was against TPA—and questions, given Obama’s controversial Iranian and Cuban negotiations, why any Republican who believes in a strong national defense would allow him more authority to negotiate with foreign leaders. ‘I support a robust economy where agriculture and businesses are able to compete in a fair and open global market,’ Zinke told Breitbart News. ‘However, we are talking about giving Barack Obama — a president who negotiates with rogue nations like Iran and Cuba — exorbitant authority to do what he thinks is best. Just look at the bad deal he’s crafting with Iran. At this time, I don’t have faith that President Obama will negotiate in the best interest of Montana or America.’ [Breitbart, [5/31/15](#)]

**Zinke Opposed Granting Obama Trade Promotion Authority Because He Did Not Like Obama’s Track Record On Negotiations**

“As President Barack Obama asks Congress to fast track two massive trade agreements, Montana’s delegation is pumping its brakes. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said he won’t grant Obama the authority because he doesn’t like Obama’s track record on negotiations. [...] ‘I support a robust economy where Montana ag and businesses are able to compete in a fair and open global market. However, we are talking about giving Obama — a president who negotiates with rogue nations like Iran and Cuba — exorbitant authority to do what he thinks is best,’ Zinke said. ‘Just look at the bad deal he’s crafting with Iran. At this time, I don’t have faith that Obama will negotiate in the best interest of Montana.’ [Billings Gazette, [4/21/15](#)]

**...BUT Zinke Changed His Mind After It Was Amended to the TPA To Create A Bipartisan Watchdog Panel**

There’s a lot of confusion about recent trade votes so I wanted to take a moment to clear it up. I support global trade but do not trust the President to negotiate behind closed doors. Because of this, I amended the trade package to create a bipartisan watchdog panel that will be at the negotiating table to report back to Congress

and the American people what exactly is being negotiated. I voted for my amended version of the TPA package today. My watchdog panel will be diverse and could include bipartisan Congressional representatives that represent agriculture, small business, labor, conservative, liberal and other groups. I want to make sure everyone knows what's going on. I believe this, and the ability for Congress to shut down negotiations at any time, creates a checks and balances to make up for the President's lack of trustworthiness. I am absolutely opposed to TAA; and I agree with you that the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is being negotiated in secret. I have taken the time to read the bill but I think the American people deserve to know what's in it too. Under TPA, secret deals like TPP would not exist because 1. We would have the watchdog panel reporting back. 2. Any trade deal will be available for 60 days to the public before Congress votes on it; and 3. Congress can shut down negotiations at any time, for any reason. I agree the President should not be given limitless powers, that's exactly why I amended TPA to provide more transparency and more oversight over negotiations." [Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [6/18/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Concurring On Currency Manipulation To Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that would "establish a center for coordinating federal government efforts to protect intellectual property from infringement, automate the processing of certain trade documents by the Customs and Border Protection agency, and establish processes for investigating whether foreign countries are directly or indirectly manipulating their currency to subsidize their exports ... A bill opponent, Rep. Sander M. Levin, D-Mich., said its currency manipulation provisions had no substance and would not be enforceable, thereby putting millions of jobs at risk due to other countries using their undervalued currencies to undercut American companies." The amendment passed 240 to 190. [HR 644, [Vote #363](#), 6/12/15; Citizen-Times, [6/19/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Extension Of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a "motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would provide Trade Promotion Authority for trade agreements negotiated by the administration, under which they would be considered by Congress under expedited procedures without amendment, and would extend Trade Adjustment Assistance programs to help displaced U.S. workers. The portion of the Senate amendment covered by the division would reauthorize, through June 30, 2021, trade adjustment assistance programs and alternative trade adjustment assistance for workers laid off because of the impact of foreign competition. Offsets would include an extension of certain customs fees and prevention of certain taxpayers with high levels of foreign income from receiving the refundable portion of the child tax credit." The motion failed 126-302. [HR 1314, [Vote #361](#); CQ Floor Votes, [6/12/15](#)]

#### **NYT: TAA Failing Would Cripple President Obama's Trade Agenda**

"Hours after President Obama made a dramatic, personal appeal for support, House Democrats on Friday thwarted his push to expand trade negotiating power — and quite likely his chance to secure a legacy-defining accord spanning the Pacific Ocean. In a remarkable blow to a president they have backed so resolutely, House Democrats voted to end assistance to workers displaced by global trade, a program their party created and has supported for four decades. That move effectively scuttled legislation granting the president trade promotion authority — the power to negotiate trade deals that cannot be amended or filibustered by Congress." [New York Times, [6/12/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Amendment to Provide TPA For Trade Agreements Negotiated By The Administration**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment that would provide Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) for trade agreements negotiated by the administration, under which they would be considered by Congress under expedited procedures without amendment. However, due to Congress rejecting Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) in the vote immediately preceding, votes in favor of TPA were rendered largely irrelevant. "Republicans moved quickly to hold a vote on Trade Promotion Authority, but even though the bill received a majority of votes, it will not go to the president's desk because it does not match the Senate-passed package." The amendment passed 219 to 211. [HR 1314, [Vote #362](#), 6/12/15; The Atlantic, [6/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Authorize Special “Trade Promotion Authority”**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: “Division III of the Ryan, R-Wis., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would provide Trade Promotion Authority for trade agreements negotiated by the administration, under which they would be considered by Congress under expedited procedures without amendment, and would extend Trade Adjustment Assistance programs to help displaced U.S. workers. The portion of the Senate amendment covered by the division would authorize special ‘trade promotion authority’ for congressional consideration of legislation to implement U.S. trade agreements, under which such agreements would be considered in Congress under an expedited process and would be subject to simple up-or-down votes so they could not be amended. The expedited authority would apply to trade agreements entered into before July 1, 2018, although the bill would allow for extensions.” The motion was agreed to 219-211. [CQ, [6/12/15](#); H.R.1314, Vote 362, [6/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Sent A Video Message To The Montana Chamber Of Commerce And Discussed His Vote On The TPP.**

[YouTube, Montana Chamber of Commerce, [6/26/15](#)] (VIDEO)

### **Zinke Amendment To TPP Would Allow Congress To Send Delegates To The Trade Negotiations**

“Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke has reversed course on giving President Barack Obama authority to fast track free trade agreements but only after getting the ayes in the negotiating room from Congress. Montana’s lone House representative, Zinke previously opposed fast-track authority for Obama, saying he didn’t trust the president to negotiate a good deal for the United States. But on Friday, Zinke proposed an alternative: Allow Congress to send delegates to the trade negotiations, with half the delegation selected by Republican leadership and half by the ranking Democrat. The delegates, mostly likely drawn from a pool of business, union, agriculture and environmental interests, would keep Congress up to speed on trade talks, of which lawmakers from both parties have complained about knowing little. ‘The problem I had was that there was no one in the room. I looked at it and said, ‘Trust but verify.’ Zinke said. ‘I’m a Reagan guy, and people know I don’t trust the president, but I know how important trade is to Montana.’ Zinke noted that 137,000 Montana jobs are supported by global trade, that Montana exports more wheat than most states and that Crow Tribe coal can fetch \$1.5 billion in Asian Pacific markets.” [Billings Gazette, [6/12/15](#)]

### **...BUT Zinke Previously Opposed Fast-Track Authority For Obama, Said He Didn’t Trust The President**

“Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke has reversed course on giving President Barack Obama authority to fast track free trade agreements but only after getting the ayes in the negotiating room from Congress. Montana’s lone House representative, Zinke previously opposed fast-track authority for Obama, saying he didn’t trust the president to negotiate a good deal for the United States. But on Friday, Zinke proposed an alternative: Allow Congress to send delegates to the trade negotiations, with half the delegation selected by Republican leadership and half by the ranking Democrat. The delegates, mostly likely drawn from a pool of business, union, agriculture and environmental interests, would keep Congress up to speed on trade talks, of which lawmakers from both parties have complained about knowing little. ‘The problem I had was that there was no one in the room. I looked at it and said, ‘Trust but verify.’ Zinke said. ‘I’m a Reagan guy, and people know I don’t trust the president, but I know how important trade is to Montana.’ Zinke noted that 137,000 Montana jobs are supported by global trade, that Montana exports more wheat than most states and that Crow Tribe coal can fetch \$1.5 billion in Asian Pacific markets.” [Billings Gazette, [6/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I’m A Reagan Guy, And People Know I Don’t Trust The President, But I Know How Important Trade Is To Montana.”**

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president to negotiate a good deal for the United States. But on Friday, Zinke proposed an alternative: Allow Congress to send delegates to the trade negotiations, with half the delegation selected by Republican leadership and half by the ranking Democrat. The delegates, mostly likely drawn from a pool of business, union, agriculture and environmental interests, would keep Congress up to speed on trade talks, of which lawmakers from both parties have complained about knowing little. 'The problem I had was that there was no one in the room. I looked at it and said, 'Trust but verify.' Zinke said. 'I'm a Reagan guy, and people know I don't trust the president, but I know how important trade is to Montana.' Zinke noted that 137,000 Montana jobs are supported by global trade, that Montana exports more wheat than most states and that Crow Tribe coal can fetch \$1.5 billion in Asian Pacific markets." [Billings Gazette, [6/12/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Said He Believed The TPP Was "Absolutely Critical To Montana's Agriculture Industry."**

In a March 2015 story discussing the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the *Great Falls Tribune* wrote: 'I support free trade with our economic partners but only if both sides are playing by the rules,' said Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont. 'We cannot allow nations who steal our patents and ideas, and infringe on our intellectual property rights, to continue reaping the benefits of our economy. I believe fair access to international markets, as well as quick access via sound infrastructure, is absolutely critical to Montana's agriculture industry.'" [Great Falls Tribune, [3/13/15](#)]

#### **Voted For Extending African Growth And Opportunity Act**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that would "provide a 10-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, renew the Generalized System of Preferences and extend certain programs dealing with duty-free treatment of Haitian textiles and apparel... The bill would provide offsets dealing with customs user fees, payment of corporate estimated taxes and penalties for businesses that fail to file correct tax and income information." The motion was agreed to, 397-32. [H.R. 1295, [Vote #345](#), 6/11/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/11/15](#)]

#### **AGOA Lowers U.S. Tariffs On Exports For African Countries**

"The AGOA lowers U.S. tariffs on exports for beneficiary African nations to promote more long-term economic development, trade and investment." [AGOA Website, [4/16/15](#)]

#### **GSP Provides Duty-Free Importation Of Goods From Developing Nations**

"The GSP, on the other hand, provides duty-free importation of more than 5,000 products from developing nations. The GSP expired in 2013, but the AGOA Extension and Enhancement Act would extend the program through 2017." [AGOA Website, [4/16/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Amendment To Prohibit Funds For Trade Agreement Negotiations Where The Terms Are Confidential**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that "prohibit[s] the use of funds to negotiate or enter into a trade agreement whose negotiating texts are confidential." The amendment failed 27-399. [HR 2578, [Vote #282](#), 6/03/15]

#### **Voted For Reducing Funding For International Trade Administration By \$312M**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment which would cut funding to the International Trade Administration by \$312 million in FY 2016. "House Vote 270 Fiscal 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations — International Trade Administration. McClintock, R-Calif., amendment that would reduce funding for the International Trade Administration by \$312 million, with an increase of the same amount to the spending reduction account." [H.R. 2578, McClintock Amendment, [Vote #270](#), 6/02/15; CQ Bill Track, [6/26/15](#)]

## **Republican Rep. Opposed Amendment Saying Cut Would Degrade “Ability To Fight Against ‘Unfair Subsidies Given By Foreign Governments To Their Businesses That Cause American Workers To Lose Their Jobs’”**

“Funding trade promotion: The House has rejected an amendment sponsored by Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif., to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 2578). The amendment would have eliminated \$312 million of funding for trade promotion programs at the government’s International Trade Administration. McClintock said trade promotion was the proper responsibility of private businesses, both individually and in trade associations, and taxpayers should not pay for the profits of private businesses. An amendment opponent, Rep. John Abney Culberson, R-Texas, said the funding cut would degrade the International Trade Administration’s ability to fight against “unfair subsidies given by foreign governments to their businesses that cause American workers to lose their jobs.” The vote, on June 2, was 154 yeas to 263 nays.” [Citizens-Times, [HYPERLINK "http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2015/06/05/congressional-roll-call-wnc-reps-voted/28569007/"](http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2015/06/05/congressional-roll-call-wnc-reps-voted/28569007/) [6/05/15](#)]

## **Voted Against Amendment To Increase Funding For Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership By \$11 Million**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment increasing funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program by \$11 million in FY 2016. “House Vote 271 Fiscal 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations — Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Esty, D-Conn., amendment that would increase funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program by \$11 million and reduce funding for federal prison system buildings and facilities by \$31 million.” The amendment failed 213 to 214. [H.R. 2578, Esty Amendment, [Vote #271](#), 6/02/15; CQ Bill Tracker, [6/02/15](#)]

## ***Politifact*: Program “Helps U.S. Manufacturing Firms Capitalize On Business Opportunities And Make Them More Competitive In The Global Markets”**

During the 2008 presidential campaign, Barack Obama promised to double funding for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a program run by the U.S. Commerce Department that helps U.S. manufacturing firms capitalize on business opportunities and make them more competitive in the global markets.” [Politifact, [9/30/11](#)]

## **Program Provided Business Information And Resources To U.S. Manufacturing Firms**

“The Hollings Manufacturing Extensions Partnership is part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which in turn falls under the U.S. Department of Commerce. The partnership, which consists of federal, state and local organizations, provides business information and resources to U.S. manufacturing firms to make them more competitive in the global markets.” [Politifact, [11/06/09](#)]

## **Zinke Discussed Trade, Infrastructure, Keystone & Energy**

Zinke presented to the 2015 Montana International Trade Day crowd where he discussed trade, infrastructure, keystone, energy production, workforce, education and regulation. [YouTube, Montana Chamber of Commerce, [5/21/15](#)] (VIDEO)

## **Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Bill To Re-Authorize Export-Import Bank**

In March 2015, Zinke voted for blocking consideration of a bill to “force an immediate vote to re-authorize the Export-Import Bank, a self-funded agency that provides certainty and support to American businesses and creates American jobs.” The previous question passed 233 to 181. A vote against the previous question would have allowed the bill to be considered. [H Res 152, [Vote #126](#), 3/19/15; 114<sup>th</sup> Congress Previous Questions, [3/19/15](#)]

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ Zinke voted for a short-term Highway Funding Extension – a 3 month ‘patch.’ He also voted to block consideration of a long-term Transportation Bill.
- ✓ He cosponsored the ‘Pilot’s Bill of Rights 2.’
- ✓ He voted against funding a \$750 million for a Transportation Department grant program for deployment of train control technologies, which could have prevented an Amtrak collision. But later, he supported the extension of the Positive Train Control Safety System.
- ✓ Zinke called Amtrak a “bike path to nowhere.”
- ✓ He voted for the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill for \$108.7 billion in fiscal year 2016.

### **Zinke Voted To Bar State Laws Prohibiting Working to the Full Fed. Req. Extent For Motor Carrier Employees**

In November 2015, voted for a: “Denham, R-Calif., amendment that would bar states from enacting or enforcing laws or regulations that prohibit working to the full extent allowed under federal requirements regarding maximum hours of service for motor carrier employees, or imposing additional obligations on motor carriers if employees work to the full extent allowed under federal requirements.” The amendment was adopted by a 248-180 vote. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H.Amdt.783 to H.Amdt.734 to H.R. 22, Vote 601, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring Local Transit Entities To Have A 1:1 Ratio of Assets To Liabilities For Federal Funding**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Culberson, R-Texas, amendment that would require local transit entities to have a one to one ratio of current assets to current liabilities to be eligible for federal funding.” The amendment was rejected by a 116-313 vote. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H.Amdt.789 to H.Amdt.734 to H.R. 22, Vote 603, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Trans. Sec. Providing A New Policy For The Federal Role In Transportation**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against the: “DeSantis, R-Fla., amendment that would state the sense of Congress that the Transportation secretary should provide a new policy blueprint for the federal role in transportation that would give states the maximum authority for elements of the national surface transportation system that are not the direct purview of the federal government.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 118-310. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H.Amdt.802 to H.Amdt.734 to H.R. 22, Vote 606, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Amendment Called For Reducing The Gas Tax To About 15 Cents And Transferring Authority For Most Infrastructure Projects To States**

“The House rejected an amendment that called for sharply reducing the 18.4-cents-per-gallon gas tax that is traditionally used to pay for federal transportation projects and transferring authority for most infrastructure projects to states. The non-binding amendment, from Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.), sought to establish a ‘sense of Congress’ that lawmakers think the gas tax should be reduced by about 15 cents to allow states to play a bigger role in transportation funding. The amendment was defeated in an 118-310 vote on Wednesday evening. The proposal was one of 81 amendments to a new \$325 billion highway bill that are being considering on Wednesday by the Republican-led House. It would not have created a new law requiring the gas tax to be eliminated, but it would have put lawmakers on record on the idea of abandoning the current federal

transportation funding system. DeSantis, who is running for Senate, said states and localities should have more control over revenue from the gas tax so they can directly manage the funds for construction projects. 'I'm trying to figure why we would want to perpetuate a system that's not fiscally sustainable and puts more power in Washington,' DeSantis said. But Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), the top Democrat on the House Transportation Committee, called the suggestion 'poppycock' that states could handle transportation projects without any coordination with the federal government. 'We need more investment in the national system,' DeFazio said." [The Hill, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Top Democrat On House Transportation Committee Called The Suggestion That States Could Handle Transportation Projects Without Any Coordination With The Federal Government "Poppycock."**

"The House rejected an amendment that called for sharply reducing the 18.4-cents-per-gallon gas tax that is traditionally used to pay for federal transportation projects and transferring authority for most infrastructure projects to states. The non-binding amendment, from Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.), sought to establish a 'sense of Congress' that lawmakers think the gas tax should be reduced by about 15 cents to allow states to play a bigger role in transportation funding. The amendment was defeated in an 118-310 vote on Wednesday evening. The proposal was one of 81 amendments to a new \$325 billion highway bill that are being considering on Wednesday by the Republican-led House. It would not have created a new law requiring the gas tax to be eliminated, but it would have put lawmakers on record on the idea of abandoning the current federal transportation funding system. DeSantis, who is running for Senate, said states and localities should have more control over revenue from the gas tax so they can directly manage the funds for construction projects. 'I'm trying to figure why we would want to perpetuate a system that's not fiscally sustainable and puts more power in Washington,' DeSantis said. But Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), the top Democrat on the House Transportation Committee, called the suggestion 'poppycock' that states could handle transportation projects without any coordination with the federal government. 'We need more investment in the national system,' DeFazio said." [The Hill, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Eliminate The Authority Of The Transportation Secretary To Approve Landscape & Roadside Development**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: "Hartzler, R-Mo., amendment, as modified, that would eliminate the authority of the Transportation secretary to approve the cost of landscape and roadside development as part of the construction of federal-aid highways." The amendment was rejected 172-255. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); Adt. No. 37 to HR 22; Vote 594, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Allow States to Have Operation Of Vehicles With A Gross Weight Up To 95,000 Pounds For Livestock**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: "Rooney, R-Fla., amendment that would provide for states to allow, by special permit, the operation of vehicles with a gross weight up to 95,000 pounds for hauling livestock. The cost of a permit could not exceed \$200 annually." The amendment was rejected 185-240. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); Adt. No. 39 to HR 22; Vote 595, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring "Megaprojects" Receiving Federal Funds To Establish A Peer Review Group**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against: "DeSaulnier, D-Calif., amendment that would require transportation "megaprojects" - those estimated to cost at least \$2.5 billion - that receive federal financial assistance to establish a peer review group and a comprehensive risk management plan to identify and monitor elements that could result in cost overruns or project delays." The amendment was rejected 169-257. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); Adt. No. 41 to HR 22; Vote 596, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Directing States & Metro Planning Organizations to Develop Public Criteria to Prioritize Costs**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “DeSaulnier, D-Calif., amendment that would direct states and metropolitan planning organizations to develop publicly available criteria to prioritize transportation projects.” The amendment was rejected by a 171-252 vote. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H.Amdt.780 to H.Amdt.734 to H.R. 22, Vote 599, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Establishing A 10-State Pilot Program**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Hunter, R-Calif., amendment that would establish a 10-state pilot program that would permit the use of live plant materials in roadside maintenance.” The amendment was rejected by a 173-255 vote. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H.Amdt.782 to H.Amdt.734 to H.R. 22, Vote 600, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Expanding The Eligibility Of The Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Swalwell, D-Calif., amendment that would expand the eligibility of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program to include projects that use innovative mobility technologies to provide alternatives to driving alone, such as bikeshare and carpool programs, that are shown to reduce vehicle miles travelled or improve air quality.” The amendment was rejected 181-237. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); Amdt. 2 to HR 22, Vote 586, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Allow States To Permit Trucks On Their Interstate Highways That Exceed The Current Weight Limit**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Ribble, R-Wis., amendment that would allow states to permit trucks on their Interstate highways that exceed the current weight limit of 80,000 pounds. Trucks would need to be equipped with a sixth axle and could not exceed a gross weight of 91,000 pounds.” The amendment was rejected 187-236. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); Amdt. 14 to HR 22, Vote 588, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Establish A National Advisory Committee On Travel & Tourism Infrastructure To Advise Trans. Sec.**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Brown, D-Fla., amendment that would require the establishment of a National Advisory Committee on Travel and Tourism Infrastructure to advise the Transportation secretary on infrastructure issues and funding needs related to the use of the intermodal transportation network in facilitating travel and tourism, identify critical transportation facilities and corridors, and other duties.” The amendment was adopted 216-207. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); Amdt. 31 to HR 22, Vote 589, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring Trans. Sec. To Conduct A Safety Review Of Pipeline Transportation Infrastructure**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Lynch, D-Mass., amendment that would require the Transportation secretary to conduct a safety review of pipeline transportation infrastructure project if requested by a state or tribal government.” The amendment was rejected 160-263. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); Amdt. 29 to HR 22, Vote 590, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Allow Trans. Sec. to Regard a Program Of Projects As A Single Project**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Takano, D-Calif., amendment that would allow the Transportation secretary to regard a program of projects as a single project for purposes of meeting a requirement under the nationally significant freight and highway projects program for estimated project costs to equal or exceed \$100 million.” The amendment was rejected 174-248. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); Amdt. 31 to HR 22, Vote 591, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Increase The Percentage The Set Aside Grants Under The Nationally Significant Freight And Highways Projects Program**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Brownley, D-Calif., amendment that would increase to 20 percent the set-aside from grants under the nationally significant freight and highways projects program for freight projects carried out on the National Highway Freight Network that do not meet the \$100 million cost threshold.” The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by 160-263. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); Part B Adt. No. 32 HR 22, Vote 592, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Require Funds Under The Territorial Highway Program To Be Made According To The Quantifiable Measures Indicative Of Surface Transportation Needs Of Each Territory**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Radewagen, R-A.S., amendment that would require the allocation of funds under the territorial highway program to be made according to the quantifiable measures indicative of surface transportation needs of each territory, such as population, land area, or roadway mileage.” The amendment was rejected 113-310. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); Amdt. 34 to HR 22, Vote 593, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Establish A Website That Makes The Status Of Infrastructure Projects Requiring Environmental Reviews Publicly Available**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Gosar, R-Ariz., amendment that would specify that a website required under the bill that would make publicly available the status of infrastructure projects that require environmental review would need to include the total number of environmental reviews that were initiated and the total average cost and time to conduct environmental reviews.” The amendment was rejected 196-225. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); Amdt. 5 to HR 22, Vote 587, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For House Floor Consideration Of A Bill To Deem Certain Mining Operations As “Infrastructure Projects”**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 481) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill (HR 1937) that would deem certain mining operations as “infrastructure projects” as described in a 2012 presidential order regarding permitting of infrastructure projects.” The rule was agreed to by a vote of 244-185. [CQ, [10/21/15](#); H.R. 1937; Vote 556, [10/21/15](#)]

## **AUTO**

### **Zinke Voted To Exempt Low-Volume Manufacturers Of Replica Cars From Safety And Emissions Standards**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Burgess, R-Texas, amendment that would exempt low-volume vehicle manufacturers of replica cars from safety and emissions standards. It also would include other provisions related to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.” The amendment passed by 235-192. [CQ, [11/5/15](#), H.Amdt.823 to H.R.22, Vote 621, [11/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring National Highway Traffic Safety Databases Be More Publicly Available And Against Requiring Used Cars For Sale Display Additional Vehicle History Information**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Schakowsky, D-Ill., amendment that would require the Transportation secretary to make the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s vehicle safety databases more publicly accessible and require certain additional information regarding vehicle history to be displayed on used cars for sale.” The amendment was rejected by 176-251. [CQ, [11/5/15](#), H.Amdt.821 to H.R.22, Vote 619, [11/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against A Study To Review The Safety Effects Of State Laws That Allow Drivers Between The Ages Of 18 And 21 To Operate Commercial Vehicles**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Lewis, D-Ga., amendment that would remove the provisions for the establishment of a graduated commercial driver’s license pilot program and replace it with a requirement for

a study to review the safety effects of state laws that allow drivers between the ages of 18 and 21 to operate commercial vehicles.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 181-248. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H.Amdt.795 to H.Amdt.734 to H.R. 22, Vote 604, [11/4/15](#)]

### **The Amendment Would Have Eliminated Language Lowering The Minimum Truck Driver Age From 21 To 18**

“The House rejected an amendment on Wednesday to block teenagers from driving trucks, clearing the way for an effort to lower the minimum age of truck drivers on interstate trips from 21 years of age to 18. The chamber rejected an amendment to the \$325 billion highway bill that is being considered this week that would have eliminated the language lowering the minimum truck driver age from the road funding legislation on an 181-248 vote. Supporters of the amendment had argued that the proposal to lower the minimum of truck drivers should be studied more by the Department of Transportation. ‘Interstate highways are already dangerous enough,’ said Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), who authored the defeated amendment. ‘Given the higher accidents and fatality rates of younger drivers, it makes no make sense to make this change without looking at all of the data,’ he continued.” [The Hill, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Supporters Of The Amendment Argued That The Proposal To Lower The Minimum Age Of Truck Drivers Should Be Studied More By The Department Of Transportation Due To Higher Accident And Fatality Rates Among Younger Drivers**

“The House rejected an amendment on Wednesday to block teenagers from driving trucks, clearing the way for an effort to lower the minimum age of truck drivers on interstate trips from 21 years of age to 18. The chamber rejected an amendment to the \$325 billion highway bill that is being considered this week that would have eliminated the language lowering the minimum truck driver age from the road funding legislation on an 181-248 vote. Supporters of the amendment had argued that the proposal to lower the minimum of truck drivers should be studied more by the Department of Transportation. ‘Interstate highways are already dangerous enough,’ said Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), who authored the defeated amendment. ‘Given the higher accidents and fatality rates of younger drivers, it makes no make sense to make this change without looking at all of the data,’ he continued.” [The Hill, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Voted For \$8.1 Billion Short-Term Highway Funding Extension**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a bill that “would reauthorize federal-aid highway and transit programs through Dec. 18, 2015 and would transfer \$8.1 billion in funding from the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund to cover projected trust fund shortfalls over that time. The measure completely offsets the cost of the proposed funding transfer by extending for two years the current budgetary treatment of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) fees as mandatory savings and through several tax compliance provisions.” The bill passed by a vote of 312-119. [HR 3038, [Vote #441](#), 7/15/15; CQ Floor Votes, 7/15/15]

### **Voted For 3 Month Funding Patch For The Highway Trust Fund And Veterans Affairs Department**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for “a three-month extension of highway funding Wednesday, just two days before the Highway Trust Fund was set to run out of money to help states build roads, bridges, and mass transit projects.” The bill “also would authorize the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to use \$3.4 billion to pay for veteran care through non-VA providers and instruct the VA to consolidate all non-VA programs into a single program.” The bill passed 385 to 34. [HR 3236, [Vote #486](#), 7/29/15; USA Today, [7/29/15](#); CQ, [7/29/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration Of A Long Term Transportation Bill**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for to block consideration of a vote to “re-authorize a long-term Transportation Bill that provides 6 years of funding so states and localities can address critical infrastructure needs.” The previous question carried, 239-167. A vote against the previous question was to force the vote on a long term transportation bill. [H Res 369, [Vote #450](#), 7/22/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Bill Would Also Target Corporations Moving Abroad To Avoid Paying Taxes, Instead Reinvest Money In Transportation Improvements**

The bill also intended to "stop corporations that seek to move abroad to avoid paying their taxes and use that money for transportation improvements here in America." A vote against the previous question was to force the vote on a bill to stop corporations moving abroad to avoid paying taxes. [H Res 369, [Vote #450](#), 7/22/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [7/22/15](#)]

### **Voted For Blocking Consideration Of Long-Term Transportation Bill**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for to block consideration of a vote to "re-authorize a long-term Transportation Bill that provides 6 years of funding so states and localities can address critical infrastructure needs. The bill would also stop corporations that seek to move abroad to avoid paying their taxes and use that money for transportation improvements here in America." The previous question carried, 240-167. A vote against the previous question was to force the vote on long-term transportation funding. [H Res 380, [Vote #470](#), 7/28/15; Democratic Leader – Previous Questions, [2/03/15](#)]

## **FLIGHT**

### **Zinke Voted To Require TSA To Document Maintenance Procedures Carried Out By TSA & Contractors At Airports**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: "Katko, R-N.Y., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would require the Transportation Security (TSA) to outline and document maintenance procedures that are carried out by both TSA personnel and contractors at airports, and to provide schedules for work conducted by outside contractors on a monthly basis. The bill would require that compliance with these procedures be documented and that the TSA must impose penalties for noncompliance." The motion passed 380-0. [CQ, [7/27/15](#), H.R. 2270, Vote 469, [7/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosp. Pilot's Bill Of Rights 2**

In March 2015, Zinke cosponsored a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes. [CQ, Accessed [3/17/15](#); H.R. 1062, Cosponsored 3/16/15, Introduced [2/25/15](#)]

### **Bill Would "Expand" Third Class Medical Exemptions, "Broaden Protections" Under The Original Bill, And "Broaden Protections Provided In The Original Pilot's Bill Of Rights."**

"Pilot's Bill of Rights 2 (S. 571), introduced by U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), would expand the third-class medical exemption for recreational pilots and broaden the protections provided in the original Pilot's Bill of Rights, which was signed into law in 2012. In addition, S. 571 represents a significant improvement in the due process rights and liability protections for volunteer pilots by ensuring certificate holders have the right to appeal FAA decisions through a new, merit-based trial in Federal Court." [Kansas City Kansan, [3/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke Cosponsored The General Aviation Pilot Protection Act Of 2015**

In February 2015, Zinke cosponsored a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes. [H.R. 1086, Co-sponsored 2/27/15, Introduced [2/25/15](#)]

### **The General Aviation Pilot Protection Act Would Allow A Pilots To Operate As A Pilot, "Without A Third Class Medical Certificate, Within Specified Parameters."**

"The General Aviation Pilot Protection Act, was first introduced in the 113th Congress, and would allow a person with a valid pilot's license to operate as pilot in command of a small aircraft without a Third Class Medical certificate, within specified parameters." [Office of Rep. Rokita, Press Release, [3/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Eliminating Discretionary Funding For The Essential Air Services And Increase The Spending Reduction Account By \$155 Million**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “McClintock, R-Calif., amendment that would eliminate discretionary funding for the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and increase the spending reduction account by \$155 million, the amount that the underlying bill would provide in discretionary funding for the EAS program.” The amendment failed 166-255. [CQ, [6/4/15](#); H.Amdt.363 to H.R. 2577, Vote 298, [6/4/15](#)]

## **RAIL**

### **Zinke Voted Against Reducing Funding For FAA By \$3M, to Fund Federal Railroad Administration’s Safety & Operations**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an: “Esty, D-Conn., amendment that would reduce by \$3 million funding for the Federal Aviation Administration’s operations account, with the reduction targeted at funding for staff offices, and provide an additional \$3 million for the Federal Railroad Administration’s safety and operations account.” The amendment failed 184-230. [CQ, [6/4/15](#); H.Amdt.366 to H.R. 2577, Vote 308, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Require The U.S. C&BP To Report On The Inspection Of High-Risk Shipments Entering The U.S. By Rail**

In September 2015, Zinke voted for a: “McSally, R-Ariz., motion to suspend the rules and pass a bill that would require the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to report to Congress on the inspection of high-risk shipments entering the United States by rail. The report would include the number of high-risk shipments entering the United States by rail each year, details on radiation detection units at rail crossings at northern and southern borders, an assessment of whether additional radiation equipment is necessary, and a plan to train CBP personnel to use the Automated Targeting System for high-risk cross-border rail shipments.” Motion was agreed to 412-0. [CQ, [9/28/15](#); H.R. 2786, Vote 520, [9/28/15](#)]

## **RAIL – AMTRAK**

### **Zinke Supported The Extension Of The Positive Train Control Safety System**

“Officials with America’s largest freight railroads, including BNSF Railway, have informed the government and shippers they will start curtailing service if Congress does not extend the year-end deadline for the installation of a safety system called Positive Train Control. [...] Montana Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines and Rep. Ryan Zinke have all supported extending the deadline.” [Flathead Beacon, [9/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Eliminating Funding For Amtrak Operating Grants**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Brooks, R-Ala., amendment that would eliminate funding for Amtrak operating grants.” The amendment failed 143-283. [CQ, [6/4/15](#); H.Amdt.375 to H.R. 2577, Vote 303, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Eliminating Funding For Amtrak Capital Grants**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Brooks, R-Ala., amendment that would eliminate funding for Amtrak capital grants.” The amendment failed 139-286. [CQ, [6/4/15](#); H.Amdt.377 to H.R. 2577, Vote 304, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Amendment for \$750M In Positive Train Control, Could Have Prevented Amtrak Collision**

In May 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment to authorize \$750 million in positive train control. “House Democrats wanted increased funding for an automated train control system that could have prevented last week’s deadly Amtrak crash included in a surface transportation bill being voted on Tuesday. . . . A spokesman for House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said Democrats were offering a motion to recommit on the road and transit measure that the House is voting on Tuesday that would boost the federal government’s funding for the automated train control system to \$750 million.” [The Hill, [5/19/15](#); HR 2353, [Vote #248](#), 5/19/15]

### **Zinke Voted to Authorize \$7.2 Billion in Spending for Amtrak and Other Rail Programs From 2016 Through 2019**

Zinke voted for passage of the bill that would reauthorize the Amtrak through fiscal 2019, and restructure funding according to Amtrak's major lines of business. It would authorize funds for Amtrak operating expenses in the Northeast corridor at the following levels: \$439 million for fiscal 2016, \$464 million for fiscal 2017, \$480 million for fiscal 2018 and \$498 million for fiscal 2019; and for Amtrak operating expenses within the national network at the following levels: \$973 million for fiscal 2016, \$974 million for fiscal 2017, \$985 million for fiscal 2018 and \$997 million for fiscal 2019. It also would authorize \$300 million per year over four years for capital grants. The bill would require Amtrak to annually develop a detailed five-year capital and operating plan and examine the criteria it should use in determining what long-distance routes to service. It would require the development of a five-year capital investment plan with affected states for Amtrak's northeast corridor while creating a new federal-state partnership to finance corridor improvement projects. The bill passed by a vote of 316-101. [CQ, [3/4/15](#); H.R. 749, Vote 112, [3/4/12](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Recommitting Amtrak Funding Bill With Instructions For a Military Canine Program & Hiring Veterans**

In March 2015, Zinke voted no on the Maloney, D-N.Y., motion to recommit the bill to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with instructions to report back to the House immediately with an amendment to authorize \$15 million per year from fiscal 2016-2019 for the acquisition of a military canine program and require Amtrak to implement a veteran hiring initiative within the Amtrak Police Department within 60 days of the bill's enactment. The motion was rejected by a vote of 184-232. [CQ, [3/4/15](#); H.R. 749, Vote 111, [3/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said It Makes Amtrak More "Transparent" And "Accountable" While "Accelerating The Environmental Permitting Process."**

Zinke said in a press release, "Sound infrastructure is critical to Montana and is a fundamental role of government," said Rep. Zinke. "This week I voted to support rail service in Montana by voting for the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act. This bill makes Amtrak more transparent and more accountable to taxpayers while also increasing competition and private sector participation in passenger rail. This law will help streamline the process for states and passenger rail providers to add on to or update their lines by reducing red tape and accelerating the environmental permitting process." [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [3/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted For an Amendment to Eliminate all Federal Assistance For Amtrak**

In March 2015, Zinke vote for the McClintock, R-Calif., amendment no. 6, that would strike from the bill provisions to authorize funds for Amtrak operating expenses in the Northeast corridor at the following levels: \$439 million for fiscal 2016, \$464 million for fiscal 2017, \$480 million for fiscal 2018, and \$498 million for fiscal 2019; and for Amtrak operating expenses within the national network at the following levels: \$973 million for fiscal 2016, \$974 million for fiscal 2017, \$985 million for fiscal 2018, and \$997 million for fiscal 2019. The amendment was rejected in Committee of the Whole by a vote of 147-272. [CQ, [3/4/15](#); H.R. 749, Vote 110, [3/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To "Reform" Amtrak And Show, "That We're Serious About Making Them Accountable," Because, "The Amendment Was Never Going To Pass Anyway."**

"But Zinke said he made the vote to make a point. 'This was a vote to reform Amtrak,' Zinke said. 'This vote was a shot across the bow – the amendment was never going to pass anyway – but I wanted Amtrak to know that we're serious about making them accountable.' The congressman hopes the final bill he supported will make Amtrak more accountable to taxpayers and added that the railroad should be more open with its finances." [Flathead Beacon, [3/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke Criticized Amtrak: “I Think It’s Time We Look For A Better Model Because Amtrak’s Model Is Not Working.”**

“Zinke was critical of the railroad’s track record in an interview with the Beacon. ‘I’m a supporter of rail but I think we need to innovate,’ Zinke said. ‘I think it’s time we look for a better model because Amtrak’s model is not working.’ [Flathead Beacon, [3/13/15](#)]

### **Zinke Defended Vote To Strip Federal Funding From Amtrak, Said It Was “A Shot Across The Bow” And That He Supported Rail Travel But “He’d Like To See Amtrak Able To Function Without Government Funding.”**

“The congressman defended two separate votes on Amtrak funding. In addition to the bill itself, Zinke voted in favor of an amendment to H.R. 749 that would have cut all federal subsidies for Amtrak. Those services include Amtrak’s Empire Builder line [...] In a prepared statement, Zinke described his vote in favor of the amendment, which would have cut federal funding for Amtrak, as a ‘shot across the bow’ to let Amtrak know that we are serious and take fiscal accountability and transparency seriously in Montana.’ Zinke went on to say that, while he supports rail travel, he thinks the country needs a better plan. He wants to make sure that Amtrak spends the funds in cost-effective ways [...] Zinke says he is in favor of passenger rail service. In his statement, he claims that someday he’d like to see Amtrak able to function without government funding.” [KCFW, [3/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Strip Funding Because He Knew It Wouldn’t Pass, And Zinke Wanted To Hold Organizations Accountable “If They Do Not Spend Montana Taxpayer Dollars Wisely.”**

“Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke either did or did not vote to stop federal funding for Amtrak, but the U.S. House of Representatives voted to authorize \$8 million of funding for the rail service. Heather Swift, a spokesperson for Zinke said that he voted for the bill that had an amendment that would stop all federal funding to Amtrak because he knew that it would not pass. He was voting for the rest of the bill. ‘Despite knowing that it would fail, Zinke also voted for an amendment on the bill which would remove federal subsidies of Amtrak because he believes it’s important to let organizations know Zinke will hold them accountable if they do not spend Montana taxpayer dollars wisely.’ She said that Zinke did vote yes on the bill, which provides full funding for Amtrak, as well as makes the rail company ‘more transparent and more accountable to the taxpayer while increasing private sector competition,’ but did vote for the amendment that would take away funding.” [Havre Daily News, [3/18/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed Vote Succeeded Because Amtrak Called Him The Next Day To Discuss Why It Mattered In MT**

“Addressing another move that drew local reaction, Zinke defended his initial vote against funding for Amtrak, calling it a ‘shot across the bow’ to get the agency’s attention. It worked, he said, and Amtrak officials called him up the next day. ‘When does Amtrak come through Whitefish, and go through two of the most beautiful parks in North America? At night,’ Zinke said. ‘That railway was put in there because tourism matters. It matters to the Flathead Valley.’ [Daily Inter Lake, [4/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called Amtrak “East Coast Centric,” Said They “Need To Put More Effort Into The Rural Areas.”**

“He addressed his vote on the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act. He voted in favor of the funding package, but not before he backed a proposed amendment in the bill that called for stripping Amtrak of its entire federal funding. The vote, he called a warning shot, got the attention of Amtrak officials who asked to meet with him. ‘Amtrak has got to reorganize,’ he said. ‘They are East Coast centric. Their business model in Montana has to change. They need to put more effort into the rural areas.’ [Whitefish Pilot, [4/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Attacked Amtrak For Scheduling Passes Through Glacier National Park At Night, Said The Empire Builder’s On-Time Performance Improvement Was Not “Good Enough.”**

“He lambasted Amtrak for scheduling its passenger rail service to pass by Glacier National Park at night when a view of the park is impossible. He also called out the Empire Builder’s on-time performance increasing from 23 percent to 73 percent as not good enough.” [Whitefish Pilot, [4/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Called Amtrak A “Bike Path To Nowhere”**

“Zinke said Amtrak could improve in rural areas by creating a more extensive network. He compared Amtrak’s current rural service to a ‘bike path to nowhere.’ ‘If they want to make rail viable in the rural environment, then they have to make a network and show they want to make a difference,’ he said. ‘If you have a bus route that doesn’t stop anywhere, you’re not going to get many passengers.’ [Flathead News Group, [3/19/10](#)]

### **Zinke Criticized Amtrak’s 50% Improvement, Said It Is, “Going From A No-Show To An F.”**

“He harshly criticized the Empire Builder’s on-time performance, which hovered around 23 percent last year but has improved to 72.9 percent. ‘That’s going from a no-show to an F,’ Zinke said. ‘They have to show they are serious about improving rural service.’ Amtrak officials have argued congestion from increased freight traffic is to blame for the poor on-time performance.” [Flathead News Group, [3/19/10](#)]

### **Zinke Said Amtrak Without Federal Funds Would Be, “A Win For The Industry And For Montana Taxpayers” Because “Too Much” Funding Goes To The East Coast Corridor And Montanans Don’t Get “Fair Share” Of Funding**

“Zinke says too much of Amtrak’s funding is put into the East Coast corridor. ‘Right now, the East Coast takes up a large portion of the funds,’ he said. ‘Meanwhile Montanans pay in and I don’t believe we get our fair share reinvested.’ Zinke said he’s serious about making sure Amtrak starts focusing on more than the route between Washington D.C. and New York City. Ideally, he wants to see passenger rail find success without any government funding. ‘That’s a win for the industry and for Montana taxpayers,’ he said.” [Flathead News Group, [3/19/10](#)]

## **FUNDING - TRANSPORTATION-HUD APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

### **Zinke Voted To Appropriate \$108.7B FY 2016, Including \$55.3B Discretionary Spending, for DOT & HUD**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would appropriate \$108.7 billion in fiscal 2016, including \$55.3 billion in discretionary spending, for the departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development and related agencies. It would provide \$70.6 billion for the Transportation Department, including \$15.9 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration, \$41 billion for the highway programs and \$10.7 billion for transit programs. It also would provide \$37.7 billion for the Housing and Urban Development Department, including \$20 billion for the tenant-based Section 8 rental assistance program.” The bill passed by a vote of 216-210. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.R. 2577, Vote 329, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Voted For Preventing Local Officials From Working With DOT To Reduce Motorcycle Fatalities**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment to the Transportation And HUD Appropriations Bill that would remove language from the bill that would allow the Transportation secretary to engage in activities with states and state lawmakers to consider proposals related to reducing motorcycle fatalities. The amendment passed, 235 to 189. [HR 2577, [Amendment #9](#), [Vote #299](#), 6/04/15; CQ, [6/04/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Increasing Insurance Requirements For Commercial Vehicles To Guard Against Worst Case Scenario Incidents**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would remove a section of the bill that would bar funds from being used to develop, issue or implement regulations that increase the minimum financial responsibility for transporting passengers or property by commercial motor vehicles. The amendment failed, 176 to 247. [HR 2577, [Amendment #16](#), [Vote #301](#), 6/04/15; CQ, [6/04/15](#)]

### **Voted For Increasing Safety Funding By Nearly \$17 Million For Existing Rail Lines**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an amendment increasing funding for the Federal Railroad Administration’s safety and operations account by \$16,930,000 in order to improve safety on existing rail lines and reduce funding for FRA capital investment grants by \$83 million. “The U.S. House on Thursday rejected an effort by

Rep. Scott Garrett to use some money earmarked for new transit projects to improve safety on existing lines instead. By a vote of 266-160, the House defeated Garrett's attempt to amend the transportation spending bill and transfer \$17 million to the Federal Railroad Administration's safety account from the funds earmarked for new construction." The amendment failed, 160 to 266. [HR 2577, [Amendment #18](#), [Vote #302](#), 6/04/15; NJ.com [6/05/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against Amendment That Slashed More Than \$280 Million In Funding For Amtrak**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment cutting \$288 million in Amtrak operating grants. "The House on Thursday rejected a conservative lawmaker's push to impose steep cuts on Amtrak's budget a month after a fatal derailment near Philadelphia. The annual appropriations measure for the Department of Transportation contains \$1.13 billion for Amtrak, down from the current \$1.4 billion level. Rep. Mo Brooks (R-Ala.) offered two amendments to slash Amtrak funding further. His first proposal, rejected 143-283 with 99 Republicans in opposition, would eliminate all \$288.5 million for Amtrak operating grants." The amendment failed, 190 to 232. [HR 2577, [Amendment #20](#), [Vote #303](#), 6/04/15; The Hill, [6/04/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted to Reauthorize Commodity Futures Trading Commission Through 2019 With Numerous Changes To CFTC**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for: "Passage of the bill that would reauthorize operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) through fiscal 2019 and amend the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act to modify and clarify how the CFTC is to regulate derivatives and swaps. The bill would make numerous changes to CFTC operations. It would establish the Office of the Chief Economist and require the agency to conduct cost-benefit analyses of its proposed rules and improve safeguards of market data in its control." The bill passed by 246-171. [CQ, [6/9/15](#), H.R. 2289, Vote 309, [6/9/15](#)]

#### **Voted Against \$3M In Additional Funding For Federal Railroad Safety**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would "reduce by \$3 million funding for the Federal Aviation Administration's operations account, with the reduction targeted at funding for staff offices, and provide an additional \$3 million for the Federal Railroad Administration's safety and operations account." The amendment failed 184 to 230. [HR 2577, [Vote #308](#), 6/04/15; CQ Floor Votes, [6/04/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Reduce FY2016 Transportation-HUD Spending By 1%**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: "Blackburn, R-Tenn., amendment that would reduce spending by 1 percent to all accounts in the bill." The amendment was rejected by 163-259. [CQ, [6/9/15](#), H.Amdt.397 to H.R. 2577, Vote 310, [6/9/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funding For Enforcement Of The Housing And Urban Development Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: "Gosar, R-Ariz., amendment that would bar funding for HUD to implement, enforce or administer the proposed Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule or the notice entitled 'Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool.'" The amendment passed by 229-193. [CQ, [6/9/15](#), H.Amdt.399 to H.R. 2577, Vote 311, [6/9/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funding For Enforcement Of The Rule For Hazardous Materials For High-Hazard Flammable Trains**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: "Gosar, R-Ariz., amendment that would bar funds from being used by the Transportation Department to implement or enforce the rule entitled 'Hazardous Materials for High-Hazard Flammable Trains.'" The amendment was rejected by 136-286. [CQ, [6/9/15](#), H.Amdt.401 to H.R. 2577, Vote 312, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Defund An Orlando To Miami Passenger Rail Project**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Posey, R-Fla., amendment that would bar funding for the Transportation Department to finance a new passenger rail project that runs from Orlando to Miami through Indian River County, Fla.” The amendment was rejected by 163-260. [CQ, [6/9/15](#), H.Amdt.405 to H.R. 2577, Vote 313, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Defunding The Sunset Limited Amtrak Line From New Orleans To Los Angeles**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Sessions, R-Texas, amendment that would bar funding for Amtrak on the route with the highest loss, measured by the loss per rider. It would eliminate the ‘Sunset Limited’ line from New Orleans to Los Angeles.” The amendment was rejected by 205-218. [CQ, [6/9/15](#), H.Amdt.407 to H.R. 2577, Vote 314, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Defunding Any Amtrak Route Which Had Operating Costs That Exceeded Two Times The Revenue Of The Route, Based On Amtrak’s Five-Year Plan**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Sessions, R-Texas, amendment that would bar funding for Amtrak to operate any route for which the operating costs exceed two times its revenues based on Amtrak’s FY 2014-18 Five Year Plan from April 2014.” The amendment was rejected by 186-237. [CQ, [6/9/15](#), H.Amdt.409 to H.R. 2577, Vote 315, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Requiring FAA To Allow Burbank, California Airport To Institute A Curfew On Flights**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Schiff, D-Calif., amendment that would require the Federal Aviation Administration to allow the Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, Calif., to impose a curfew on flights.” The amendment was rejected by 157-266. [CQ, [6/9/15](#), H.Amdt.410 to H.R. 2577, Vote 316, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Baring Funding For The Transportation Department To Authorize Exempt Facility Bonds To Finance Passenger Rail Projects That Cannot Reach 150 Mph**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Posey, R-Fla., amendment that would bar funding for the Transportation Department to authorize exempt facility bonds to finance passenger rail projects that cannot attain the speed of 150 mph.” The amendment was rejected 148-275. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.Amdt.411 to H.R. 2577, Vote 317, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Barring Funding For The Transportation Department To Make A Loan Under The Railroad Revitalization And Regulatory Reform Act That Exceeds \$600 Million**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Posey, R-Fla., amendment that would bar funding for the Transportation Department to make a loan under the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act that exceeds \$600 million.” The amendment was rejected 134-287. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.Amdt.413 to H.R. 2577, Vote 318, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funds From Being Used In Violation Of HUD Regulations Relating To Restrictions On Assistance To Non-Citizens**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Yoho, R-Fla., amendment that would bar funds from being used in violation of HUD regulations relating to restrictions on assistance to non-citizens.” The amendment was adopted 244-181. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.Amdt.420 to H.R. 2577, Vote 319, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funds From Being Used In A Manner That Violates The Housing And Community Development Act Of 1980 In Regards To Providing Financial Assistance For Non-Citizen Eligibility For Need-Based Housing**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Brooks, R-Ala., amendment that would bar funds from being used to provide financial assistance in contravention of section 214 (d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, regarding non-citizen eligibility for need-based housing.” The amendment was adopted 246-180. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.Amdt.422 to H.R. 2577, Vote 320, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funds From Being Used By FAA For The Bio-Data Assessment In The Hiring Of Air Traffic Control Specialists**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Hultgren, R-Ill., amendment that would bar funds from being used by the Federal Aviation Administration for the bio-data assessment in the hiring of air traffic control specialists.” The amendment was adopted 240-186. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.Amdt.424 to H.R. 2577, Vote 321, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Barring Funds From Being Used By Amtrak For Projects Off The Northeast Corridor Until The Amount Spent On Projects On The Northeast Corridor In 2016 Equals The Amount Of Amtrak’s Projects From That Line In 2015**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Meehan, R-Pa., amendment that would bar funds from being used by Amtrak for projects off of the Northeast Corridor until the amount [spent] on projects on the Northeast Corridor in fiscal 2016 equals the amount of Amtrak’s projects from that line in fiscal 2015.” The amendment failed 199-227. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.Amdt.425 to H.R. 2577, Vote 322, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funds From Being Used By HUD To Enforce The Implementation Of The Fair Housing Act’s Discriminatory Effects Standard**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Garrett, R-N.J., amendment that would bar funds from being used by HUD to implement or enforce the final rule entitled ‘Implementation of the Fair Housing Act’s Discriminatory Effects Standard’ published in the Federal Register on Feb. 15, 2013.” The amendment was agreed to 231-195. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.Amdt.428 to H.R. 2577, Vote 323, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Barring Funds From Being Used To Enter Into A Contract With Any Individual Whose Disclosures Of A Proceedings With A Disposition In The Federal Awardee Performance And Integrity Information System Include The Term “Fair Labor Standards Act.”**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an: “Ellison, D-Minn., amendment that would bar funds from being used to enter into a contact with any individual whose disclosures of a proceedings with a disposition in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term ‘Fair Labor Standards Act.’” The amendment failed 182-243. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.Amdt.429 to H.R. 2577, Vote 324, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funds From Being Used To Carry Out Any Enrichment For Any New Start Grant Request**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for an: “Emmer, R-Minn., amendment that would bar funds from being used to carry out any enrichment for any New Start grant request.” The amendment failed 212-214. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.Amdt.430 to H.R. 2577, Vote 325, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Barring Funds From Being Used In Contravention Of Executive Order 11246 Relating To Equal Employment Opportunity**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Peters, D-Calif., amendment that would bar funds from being used in contravention of Executive Order 11246 relating to equal employment opportunity.” The amendment was agreed to 241-184. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.Amdt.435 to H.R. 2577, Vote 326, [6/9/15](#)]

#### **Executive Order 11246 Protects Workers Employed By Or Seeking Jobs With Federal Contractors And Subcontractors From Discrimination On The Basis Of Race, Color, Religion, Sex Or National Origin**

“On July 21, 2014, President Obama signed an executive order extending workplace protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans in the federal contracting workforce. Executive Order 11246 protects workers employed by or seeking jobs with federal contractors and subcontractors from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Through this action, President Obama amended EO 11246 to add protections for sexual orientation and gender identity. The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will be tasked with implementing this order.” [U.S. Department of Labor, Accessed [6/10/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Transportation Funds From Being Used To Acquire A Camera For The Purpose Of Collecting Or Storing Vehicle License Plate Numbers**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Issa, R-Calif., amendment that would bar funds from being used to acquire a camera for the purpose of collecting or storing vehicle license plate numbers.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 297-129. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H. Amdt. 439 to H.R. 2577, Vote 327, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Increasing The Capital And Debt Service Grants To The National Railroad Passenger Corporation Account By \$6 Million And Decreasing The Office Of Lead Hazard Control And Healthy Homes Information Technology Fund Account By A Similar Amount**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against the: “Delaney, D-Md., motion to recommit the bill to the House Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would increase the Capital and Debt Service Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation account by a total of \$6 million and decrease the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Information Technology Fund account by a similar amount.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 181-244. [CQ, [6/9/15](#); H.R. 2577, Vote 328, [6/9/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Remove Allowing Transportation Secretary To Consider Proposals Related To Reducing Motorcycle Fatalities**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Walberg, R-Mich., amendment that would remove language from the bill that would allow the Transportation secretary to engage in activities with states and state lawmakers to consider proposals related to reducing motorcycle fatalities.” The amendment was agreed to 235-189. [CQ, [6/4/15](#); H.Amdt.364 to H.R 2577, Vote 299, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Voted Against Eliminating Discretionary Funding For Essential Air Service Program**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against an amendment that would eliminate discretionary funding for the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and increase the spending reduction account by \$155 million, the amount that the underlying bill would provide in discretionary funding for the EAS program. The amendment, failed 166 to 255. [HR 2577, [Amendment #8](#), [Vote #298](#), 6/04/15; CQ, [6/04/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Bar Funds From Being Used To Develop, Issue, Or Implement Regulations That Increase The Minimum Financial Responsibility For Transporting Passengers Or Property By Commercial Motor Vehicles**

In June 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Cartwright, D-Pa., amendment that would remove a section of the bill that would bar funds from being used to develop, issue or implement regulations that increase the minimum financial responsibility for transporting passengers or property by commercial motor vehicles.” The amendment failed 176-247. [CQ, [6/4/15](#); H.Amdt.371 to H.R. 2577, Vote 301, [6/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Reduce Funding For Federal Funding For Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Grants By \$83 Million And Provide An Additional \$17 Million For The Federal Railroad Administration Safety And Operations Account**

In June 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Garrett, R-N.J., amendment that would provide an additional \$17 million for the Federal Railroad Administration safety and operations account and reduce funding for Federal Transit Administration capital investment grants by \$83 million.” The amendment failed 160-266. [CQ, [6/4/15](#); H.Amdt.373 to H.R. 2577, Vote 302, [6/4/15](#)]

## **FUNDING - HIGHWAY FUNDING**

### **Zinke Said The Long-Term Highway Funding Bill Was “Still A Work In Progress” But “On The Right Track”**

“With federal transportation funding set to expire next week, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock and 18 other Democratic governors are urging a long-term appropriation rather than another temporary extension. [...] Montana Sens. Steve Daines (R) and Jon Tester (D) and Rep. Ryan Zinke (R) are all voicing support for a long-

term highway funding bill. 'The current proposal is still a work in progress but so far it is on the right track: it's financially sound and funds our infrastructure needs for three years,' Zinke said in a statement Monday. 'The Highway Bill is one of those 'must-do' bills, and I believe infrastructure is a fundamental role of government. Infrastructure is an investment, not simply an expense, that will prepare Montana for the future. A long-term highway bill that is paid for is certainly at the top of my list.' [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [10/19/15](#)]

**Zinke: "A Long-Term Highway Bill That Is Paid For Is Certainly At The Top Of My List."**

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**Zinke: "I've Long Been An Advocate For The Highway Bill In That I Look At Infrastructure As An Investment And Not An Expense."**

"The latest fight in Congress — figuring out how to pay for the nation's multibillion-dollar infrastructure needs — is reverberating in Montana, where federal funding is the lifeblood of transportation projects but is surrounded by uncertainty. The ongoing debate and inaction are threatening delays for the completion of two significant projects in the Flathead Valley, the Kalispell bypass and reconstruction of Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park. [...] U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, voted in favor of the short-term extension this week but said he, too, wants a long-term solution. 'The highway bill is one of those must-do bills,' he said. 'Congress right now has no clear answer for how to fund it. I've long been an advocate for the highway bill in that I look at infrastructure as an investment and not an expense. I can tell you that an investment today in infrastructure will prevent a lot of the problems of the future.' [Flathead Beacon, [5/22/15](#)]

**Zinke: "I Can Tell You That An Investment Today In Infrastructure Will Prevent A Lot Of The Problems Of The Future."**

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**Zinke Said He Hoped Congress Would Be Able To Come Up With A Solution And Pass A Five-Year Plan**

"Zinke said the federal government needs to remove the bureaucracy in Washington D.C. from the equation, but even then there would remain a shortfall in funds. He said he hopes Congress will be able to come up with a solution and pass a five-year plan in the coming months. He did express disappointment that the Montana Legislature failed to pass an infrastructure bill at the state level that could have helped ailing projects and reduced dependency on the federal government. 'I was disappointed in the Legislature that the infrastructure bill didn't get hammered out. That was a lack of both sides really trying to get to the solution,' he said." [Flathead Beacon, [5/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said He Was “Disappointed” The 2015 Legislature Did Not Pass An Infrastructure Bill**

“Zinke said the federal government needs to remove the bureaucracy in Washington D.C. from the equation, but even then there would remain a shortfall in funds. He said he hopes Congress will be able to come up with a solution and pass a five-year plan in the coming months. He did express disappointment that the Montana Legislature failed to pass an infrastructure bill at the state level that could have helped ailing projects and reduced dependency on the federal government. ‘I was disappointed in the Legislature that the infrastructure bill didn’t get hammered out. That was a lack of both sides really trying to get to the solution,’ he said.” [Flathead Beacon, [5/22/15](#)]

### **Billings Gazette Called On Zinke To Craft A Multi-Year Solution To The Underfunding Of The Highway Trust Fund**

“We call on the Montana delegation to be leaders in crafting a common-sense, multi-year solution to the underfunding of the highway trust. Zinke, Sen. Jon Tester and Sen. Steve Daines know the challenges of traversing Montana’s vast landscape. Their job is to help their Congressional colleagues see that transportation infrastructure can’t wait any longer. Montana highway projects already have been delayed this year, and thousands of Montana construction jobs are in limbo. The Highway Trust Fund must have a long-term funding policy in place before the latest two-month patch disappears on July 31.” [Billings Gazette, [5/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “I’d Like To See A Long-Term Highway Bill That Funds Our Projects And Doesn’t Create A Manufactured Funding Crisis.”**

“I’ve long been an advocate for the highway bill in that I look at infrastructure as an investment and not an expense. I can tell you that an investment today in infrastructure will prevent a lot of the problems of the future. I’d like to see a long-term highway bill that funds our projects and doesn’t create a manufactured funding crisis, something both chambers of Congress have been doing for too long.” [Congressman Ryan Zinke, Official Facebook, [5/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke On The Highway Bill: “A Lot Of These Projects Have Been Delayed. Uncertainty Causes Great Cost. I’m Looking For Some Solutions To Have A Long Term Highway Bill And I’m Working With All Parties To Come Up With Some Ideas.”**

“Highway funding will likely be near the top of the Congressional agenda when business resumes after the holiday break. That’s because the Highway Trust Fund will run out of money late this month or early next. It receives money from federal fuel taxes and funds several accounts, including the one that pays for road construction. Republican Congressman Ryan Zinke says he hopes a long term solution can be hammered out. ‘A lot of these projects have been delayed. Uncertainty causes great cost. I’m looking for some solutions to have a long term highway bill and I’m working with all parties to come up with some ideas. I don’t sit on that committee, but certainly have some influence because Montana - we have a lot of infrastructure and a lot of roads and roads are important to Montana.’ [Montana Public Radio, [7/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “Infrastructure Is An Investment, Not An Expense. Longer Term Highway Bill That Is Payed For And Prioritized Is Certainly At The Top Of My List.”**

“Summer is construction season across the state, but that could be put on hold. Right now, Washington is in a standoff over transportation issues, which include paying to fix roads and bridges. The deadline for the decision is in three days. The House has accepted a five-month extension but the senate is hoping to get a six-year solution done by the deadline on Friday. ‘Infrastructure is an investment, not an expense. Longer term highway bill that is payed for and prioritized is certainly at the top of my list,’ said Representative Ryan Zinke.” [KULR, [7/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said A Long Term Highway Bill Needed To Be “Stable” And “Montana Based”**

“Federal funding for Montana’s highway construction season will continue through the summer. Last week Congress passed a three-month extension to the federal highway bill. The Senate has also passed a six-year bill. Montana Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines both voted for it. But House Republican leaders say that won’t

come to a vote there, and they continue to negotiate with the Senate. Congressman Ryan Zinke says the Senate Bill doesn't have a funding source after the first three years. Tester says 40 percent of Montana's roads are in need of repair. 'So it is good news that the Senate passed a six-year highway bill. It is unfortunate that the House did not stick around to pass this bill,' Tester said. 'We need a stable, long-term bill that is Montana-based and reflects Montana values,' Zinke said. Congress hasn't passed a long-term highway bill since 2005.' [KPAX, [8/3/15](#)]

**Zinke: "The Highway Bill Is One Of Those 'Must-Do' Bills, And I Believe Infrastructure Is A Fundamental Role Of Government. Infrastructure Is An Investment, Not Simply An Expense That Will Prepare Montana For The Future."**

"Today Congressman Ryan Zinke voted to extend highway funding until the end of October and called on House and Senate leadership to craft a long-term plan that is fiscally responsible and provides investment in Montana's infrastructure. H.R. 3236, The Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 is fully paid for with offsets and also includes provisions co-sponsored by Zinke from the Hire More Heroes Act and the Helping Veterans Save for Health Care Act. 'The Highway Bill is one of those 'must-do' bills, and I believe infrastructure is a fundamental role of government. Infrastructure is an investment, not simply an expense, that will prepare Montana for the future,' said Representative Ryan Zinke. 'A long term highway bill that is paid for with the right priorities is certainly at the top of my list, but right now Congress has no clear path forward. I am pleased that our Veterans and Highways remain a priority, but I look forward to both Chambers coming together on a fiscally responsible way to build our roads and bridges.'" [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/29/15](#)]

**Zinke Said A Long Term Highway Bill Remained At "The Top Of [His] List" But The Bill Did Not Have A Clear "Path Forward"**

"Today Congressman Ryan Zinke voted to extend highway funding until the end of October and called on House and Senate leadership to craft a long-term plan that is fiscally responsible and provides investment in Montana's infrastructure. H.R. 3236, The Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 is fully paid for with offsets and also includes provisions co-sponsored by Zinke from the Hire More Heroes Act and the Helping Veterans Save for Health Care Act. 'The Highway Bill is one of those 'must-do' bills, and I believe infrastructure is a fundamental role of government. Infrastructure is an investment, not simply an expense, that will prepare Montana for the future,' said Representative Ryan Zinke. 'A long term highway bill that is paid for with the right priorities is certainly at the top of my list, but right now Congress has no clear path forward. I am pleased that our Veterans and Highways remain a priority, but I look forward to both Chambers coming together on a fiscally responsible way to build our roads and bridges.'" [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [7/29/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Reauthorize Federal-Aid Highway And Transit Programs Through Dec. 18, 2015**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: "Passage of a bill that would reauthorize federal-aid highway and transit programs through Dec. 18, 2015 and would transfer \$8.1 billion in funding from the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund to cover projected trust fund shortfalls over that time. The measure completely offsets the cost of the proposed funding transfer by extending for two years the current budgetary treatment of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) fees as mandatory savings and through several tax compliance provisions." The bill was passed 312-119. [CQ, [7/15/15](#); H.R. 3038, Vote 441, [7/15/15](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Reauthorize Federal-Aid Highway And Transit Programs For Three Months, Through October 2015, And Transfer \$8.1 Billion From The Treasury To The Highway Trust Fund To Cover Shortfalls During That Time**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for: "Passage of a bill that would reauthorize federal-aid highway and transit programs for three months, through October 2015, and would transfer \$8.1 billion from the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund to cover shortfalls during that time. The bill also would authorize the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to use \$3.4 billion to pay for veteran care through non-VA providers and instruct the VA to

consolidate all non-VA programs into a single program.” The bill was passed by a vote of 385-34. [CQ, [7/29/15](#); H.R. 3236, Vote 486, [7/29/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted In Favor Of Funding Surface Transportation Programs For 2 Mos At FY2014 Levels**

In May 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would extend the authorization for surface transportation programs - including federal aid highway, mass transit and safety programs - for two months, through July 31, 2015. Authority to spend money from the Highway Trust Fund would also be extended through that date. Under the measure, highway and transit spending authority for those two months generally would be at comparable fiscal 2014 levels. Specifically, it would allow - for the period from Oct. 1, 2014, to July 31, 2015 - \$33.5 billion in highway and highway safety obligations; \$366 million in contract authority for administrative expenses of the federal-aid highway program; \$569 million for highway safety; \$182 million for Motor Carrier safety programs; \$216 million for Federal Motor Carrier administrative expenses; \$7.2 billion for mass transit formula grants; \$1.6 billion for capital investment grants; and \$55 million for bus and bus facilities grants.” The bill passed by 387-35. [CQ, [5/19/15](#), H.R. 2353, Vote 249, [5/19/15](#)]

## **FUNDING - 2015 SENATE HIGHWAY BILL**

### **Zinke Said the Highway Bill Included Trails & Public Transportation That Wasn't There 20 Years Ago, And Should Be Reconsidered**

“To get to the \$305 billion needed to fund the federal highway bill, Congress did everything short of searching the couch cushions or raising the gas tax. Thursday, it tapped the piggy bank of U.S. banks regulated by the Federal Reserve. It also planned to sell oil in the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve in attempt to find new ‘pay-fors,’ which, in the parlance of Congress, are the funding sources used to pay for things. [...] The transportation sector should be paying for the highway bill, Zinke said, though he earlier said an increase in the gas tax isn’t part of the answer. The nation needs a funding mechanism that taps not only motorists buying gas for cars with combustible engines, but also other forms of transportation. The highway bill today also includes things like trails and public transportation that weren’t in the bill 20 years ago, Zinke said. The contents of the bill should be reconsidered, he said. The future debate will also involve an argument by urban lawmakers that the highway funding be distributed based on population, Zinke said, which would put Montana road and bridge construction on a potholed path.” [Independence Record, [12/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Funding Highway Trust Fund at Levels Provided For by the Senate Annually From FY2016-FY2021**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Huffman, D-Calif., motion to instruct House conferees to agree to the provisions of the Senate amendment with respect to the total amount of funding that would be provided annually for fiscal 2016 through fiscal 2021 out of the Highway Trust Fund for surface transportation programs, and to insist on the section of the House amendment relating to adjustments to contract authority.” The motion was rejected by 179-239. [CQ, [11/5/15](#), H.R.22, Vote 624, [11/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Senate's Six-Year Highway Bill Only “Paid For Two” Years**

“00:00:07 HOST: You bet. It’s so great to have you back on the show with us Ryan. I know that yesterday the Senate voted on a highway bill and the congress is going to take a look when they get back after the break. I was hoping you might be able to share your thoughts on it. 00:00:17 ZINKE: Well there’s no pay for it’s on it. It’s a six year bill, it only pays for two. And I recognize the importance of infrastructure, in that I’ve always thought that infrastructure is an investment not an expense, but it has to be paid for. You know, we’re at a point in our country where, lets prioritize what we’re doing. Make sure. It’s a long term bill you know, five years, so, you’ve got to have some certainty in it and to make sure that the formula doesn’t change. There’s a lot of pressure from the east and west of this country to redo the formula, which is not to the advantage of Montana. There’s a lot of emphasis on things in New York or the east or the west corridor, you know, on the coast line. But, you know, we want to make sure Montana is served too. Because you know, we have a lot of highway, and you know, not very many people. So, we’re looking at it and that’s why I think it would be wise if we, you

know, extended it. And there's some pay fors that we're looking at. We're looking at repatriation of dollars that are overseas, if we can get this administration to agree when exports of crude and export of liquid natural gas, I think there's some revenue there long term which will be good." [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [7/31/15](#)] (AUDIO)

### **Zinke Said Congress Was "Looking At Repatriation Of Dollars That Are Overseas, If We Can Get This Administration To Agree When Exports Of Crude And Export Of Liquid Natural Gas," For Revenue To Pay For A Long Term Highway Bill**

"00:00:07 HOST: You bet. It's so great to have you back on the show with us Ryan. I know that yesterday the Senate voted on a highway bill and the congress is going to take a look when they get back after the break. I was hoping you might be able to share your thoughts on it. 00:00:17 ZINKE: Well there's no pay for it's on it. It's a six year bill, it only pays for two. And I recognize the importance of infrastructure, in that I've always thought that infrastructure is an investment not an expense, but it has to be paid for. You know, we're at a point in our country where, lets prioritize what we're doing. Make sure. It's a long term bill you know, five years, so, you've got to have some certainty in it and to make sure that the formula doesn't change. There's a lot of pressure from the east and west of this country to redo the formula, which is not to the advantage of Montana. There's a lot of emphasis on things in New York or the east or the west corridor, you know, on the coast line. But, you know, we want to make sure Montana is served too. Because you know, we have a lot of highway, and you know, not very many people. So, we're looking at it and that's why I think it would be wise if we, you know, extended it. And there's some pay fors that we're looking at. We're looking at repatriation of dollars that are overseas, if we can get this administration to agree when exports of crude and export of liquid natural gas, I think there's some revenue there long term which will be good." [YouTube, Newstalk KGVO, [7/31/15](#)] (AUDIO)

### **KPAX: Zinke Claimed The Senate Six Year Highway Bill Did Not Have A Funding Source**

"Federal funding for Montana's highway construction season will continue through the summer. Last week Congress passed a three-month extension to the federal highway bill. The Senate has also passed a six-year bill. Montana Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines both voted for it. But House Republican leaders say that won't come to a vote there, and they continue to negotiate with the Senate. Congressman Ryan Zinke says the Senate Bill doesn't have a funding source after the first three years. Tester says 40 percent of Montana's roads are in need of repair. 'So it is good news that the Senate passed a six-year highway bill. It is unfortunate that the House did not stick around to pass this bill,' Tester said. 'We need a stable, long-term bill that is Montana-based and reflects Montana values,' Zinke said. Congress hasn't passed a long-term highway bill since 2005." [KPAX, [8/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Request Conference On Six-Year Surface Transportation Authorization**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: "Shuster, R-Pa., motion that the House insist on the House amendment to the Senate amendment and request a conference on a bill (HR 22) that would provide a six-year authorization of surface transportation programs." The motion passed by 371-54. [CQ, [11/5/15](#), H.R.22, Vote 624, [11/5/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Consider Legislation To Provide A 6 Year Authorization Of Surface Transportation Programs With Offsets That Would Cover Three Years Of Projected Shortfalls In The Highway Trust Fund**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: "Adoption of the rule (H Res 507) that would provide for House floor consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill that would provide a six-year authorization of surface transportation programs, with offsets that would cover three years of projected shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund. As amended, the rule would make 45 amendments in order. The rule also would grant suspension authority on the legislative day of Nov. 5, 2015 relating to a measure authorizing appropriations for fiscal 2016 for the Defense Department." The rule was adopted 248-171. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); H.Res. 507, Vote 584, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Consider Legislation To Provide A 6 Year Authorization Of Surface Transportation Programs With Offsets That Would Cover Three Years Of Projected Shortfalls In The Highway Trust Fund**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Woodall, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 507) that would provide for House floor consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill that would provide a six-year authorization of surface transportation programs, with offsets that would cover three years of projected shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund. The motion to order the previous question also was on the amendment offered by Woodall, R-Ga., that would make 16 additional amendments in order.” The motion was agreed 241-178. [CQ, [11/3/15](#); H.Res. 507, Vote 583, [11/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Reauthorize Federal-Aid Highway And Transit Programs For Five Years, Through FY2020, At Increased Funding Levels**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of a conference report to accompany the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act (HR 22) that would reauthorize federal-aid highway and transit programs for five years, through FY 2020, at increased funding levels. The bill would transfer over \$70 billion from the Treasury’s general fund and other funds to cover projected shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund and to fully fund the measure’s estimated \$305 billion cost. Further, the bill would reauthorize Amtrak, renew the charter for the Export-Import Bank, and roll back a reduction in the crop insurance program used as an offset in last month’s two-year budget deal.” The conference report was adopted by a 359-65 vote. [CQ, [12/3/15](#); H.R. 22, Vote 673, [12/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Advance A Bill That Would Reauthorize Federal-Aid Highway And Transit Programs For Five Years, Through FY2020, At Increased Funding Levels**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 546) would provide for House floor consideration of the conference report to accompany HR 22, the bill that would reauthorize federal-aid highway and transit programs for five years, through FY 2020, at increased funding levels. The bill would transfer over \$70 billion from the Treasury’s general fund and other funds to cover projected shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund and to fully fund the measure’s estimated \$305 billion cost. Further, the bill would reauthorize Amtrak, renew the charter for the Export-Import Bank, and roll back a reduction in the crop insurance program used as an offset in last month’s two-year budget deal.” The rule was adopted by a 384-40 vote. [CQ, [12/3/15](#); H.Res. 546, Vote 667, [12/3/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said The Transportation Bill Was A “Win-Win” For Montana Because It Maintained A Formula That Benefited Rural States With Lots Of Highway Miles And Allowed States To Lock In Highway Construction Projects Over The Long Term**

“The six-year plan for transportation investments includes establishment of a national highway freight policy and creation of a \$725 million grant program to jumpstart major highway and freight projects. The Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act (the STRR Act) - sometimes simply referred to as the Transportation bill - is meant to help improve the country’s vast system of roads, bridges, and public transportation systems. [...] Zinke told Montana reporters he considers the bill a ‘win-win’ for Montana because it maintains a formula that benefits rural states with lots of highway miles and allows states to lock in highway construction projects over the long term. While all Democrats back the bank, many Republican do not, including the Republican leadership team headed by new Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. ‘This long-term highway bill is an important and overdue step forward to ending the counterproductive cycle of stop-gap renewals and to building our future again’, he said.” [Observer Leader, [11/6/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Proceed To A Senate Amendment That Would Provide A Six-Year Authorization Of Surface Transportation Programs, With Offsets That Would Cover Three Years Of Projected Shortfalls In The Highway Trust Fund**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Woodall, R-Ga., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 512) that would provide for further House floor consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill that would provide a six-year authorization of surface transportation programs, with offsets that would cover three years of projected shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund.” The motion was adopted 241-183. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H. Res. 512; Vote 597, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Provide For Further House Floor Consideration Of The Senate Amendment That Would Provide A Six-Year Authorization Of Surface Transportation Programs, With Offsets That Would Cover Three Years Of Projected Shortfalls In The Highway Trust Fund**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 512) that would provide for further House floor consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill that would provide a six-year authorization of surface transportation programs, with offsets that would cover three years of projected shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund. It also would provide that upon adoption of further amendments in the House, a motion that the House concur in the Senate amendment, as amended, with such further amendment or amendments would be considered as adopted.” The rule was adopted 243-183. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H. Res. 512; Vote 598, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Reauthorize Surface Transportation Programs For Six Years, Replace Surface Transportation Program With Block Grants, And Liquidate Federal Reserve’s Surplus Funds**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for: “Amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole, including an amendment consisting of the text of the surface transportation reauthorization measure approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, with modifications. That amendment would reauthorize surface transportation programs for six years, with policy provisions including those that would replace the Surface Transportation Program with a block grant program, create a new grant program for nationally significant freight and highway projects, and make a number of changes to the environmental review process. Another amendment would liquidate the Federal Reserve’s surplus funds and redirect that money to the General Fund. Future money that would have been deposited in the funds would also be deposited in the General Fund.” The motion passed by 363-64. [CQ, [11/5/15](#), H.R.22, Vote 623, [11/5/15](#)]

### **Bill Also Included Export-Import Reauthorization And Six Years Of Highway Funding, But Bill Only Had Funding Streams For First 2 Years**

“The House approved a bill to spend up to \$325 billion on transportation projects on Thursday after a weeklong vote-a-rama and an intense debate about federal gas taxes. The measure also includes a reauthorization of the controversial Export-Import Bank’s charter, which has been held up in Congress since it expired in June. The extension, which was included in the Senate’s highway bill and left unchanged by the House, reauthorizes the bank’s expired charter until 2019. The House voted to approve the bill in a 363-64 vote. It calls for spending \$261 billion on highways and \$55 billion on transit over six years. The legislation authorizes highway funding for six years, but only if Congress can come up with a way to pay for the final three years.” [The Hill, [11/5/15](#)]

### **Federal Funding Was Covered By Gas Tax, But Gas Tax Was Not Enough To Meet Needs Of All Highway Projects**

“Congress faces a Nov. 20 deadline to complete work on a conference report and prevent a gap in highway funding. Federal funding is covered by the gas tax, but it does not provide enough money to meet the needs for various federal transportation projects around the country. Both the House and Senate bills provide other funding sources to buttress the gas tax for three years.” [The Hill, [11/5/15](#)]

### **Billings Gazette: Headline: “Zinke Lauds 1st Long-Term Highway Funding Bill In Years.”**

[Billings Gazette, [11/5/15](#)]

**Billings Gazette: Zinke Claimed Congress Would Have To Revisit The Six Year Highway Bill In Three Years Because The Funding Sources To Pay For The Bill Were Not Reliable**

“After years of highway funding breakdowns, Congress is poised this week to pass a long-term \$325 billion transportation bill that U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke said would benefit Montana. [...] To make up for shrinking gas tax revenue, the House has proposed taking \$29 billion from an interest-bearing Federal Reserve fund that collects dividends from federally regulated banks. It also taps the sales from the U.S. petroleum reserve, a federal stockpile of crude. Those aren’t funding sources that will reliably pay for highway funding in the future, Zinke said. Although Wednesday’s highway bill is described as a six-year funding bill, Congress will have to revisit the issue in three years to look for more permanent funding sources, Zinke said.” [Billings Gazette, [11/5/15](#)]

**Zinke Said A More Reliable Source Of Funding Was Need To Fund The Federal Highway Bill**

“To get to the \$305 billion needed to fund the federal highway bill, Congress did everything short of searching the couch cushions or raising the gas tax. Thursday, it tapped the piggy bank of U.S. banks regulated by the Federal Reserve. It also planned to sell oil in the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve in attempt to find new ‘pay-fors,’ which, in the parlance of Congress, are the funding sources used to pay for things. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., thinks the highway funding challenge will come up again before the bill he endorsed Thursday expires. More reliable funding sources are needed to pay for roads and bridges, Zinke said. The estimated value of some of the pay-fors in the current highway bill are overly optimistic, Zinke and Tester agreed. Oil sales from the federal Strategic Petroleum Reserve count on a higher price than oil is currently fetching. ‘It’s a five-year bill with three years of pay-fors,’ Zinke said. ‘I give it an analogy of a garage sale, ‘We got to pay for this, so let’s sell this.’ [Independence Record, [12/4/15](#)]

**Independent Record: “The Transportation Sector Should Be Paying For The Highway Bill, Zinke Said, Though He Earlier Said An Increase In The Gas Tax Isn’t Part Of The Answer.”**

“To get to the \$305 billion needed to fund the federal highway bill, Congress did everything short of searching the couch cushions or raising the gas tax. Thursday, it tapped the piggy bank of U.S. banks regulated by the Federal Reserve. It also planned to sell oil in the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve in attempt to find new ‘pay-fors,’ which, in the parlance of Congress, are the funding sources used to pay for things. [...] The transportation sector should be paying for the highway bill, Zinke said, though he earlier said an increase in the gas tax isn’t part of the answer. The nation needs a funding mechanism that taps not only motorists buying gas for cars with combustible engines, but also other forms of transportation. The highway bill today also includes things like trails and public transportation that weren’t in the bill 20 years ago, Zinke said. The contents of the bill should be reconsidered, he said. The future debate will also involve an argument by urban lawmakers that the highway funding be distributed based on population, Zinke said, which would put Montana road and bridge construction on a potholed path.” [Independence Record, [12/4/15](#)]

**Zinke Said The House Highway Bill Would Benefit Montana Because “Montana Has A Little Over A Million People And A Lot Of Road.”**

“After years of highway funding breakdowns, Congress is poised this week to pass a long-term \$325 billion transportation bill that U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke said would benefit Montana. Most significant to the Treasure State, where 95,000 jobs are connected to highway construction, is that the funding formula giving the state \$2.58 in federal funding for every dollar Montanans pay. ‘It was a heavy lift, but that’s important because Montana has a little over a million people and a lot of road,’ Zinke said.” [Billings Gazette, [11/5/15](#)]

**Zinke On House Highway Bill: “I Believe Building A Strong Infrastructure Is A Fundamental Role Of Government. Infrastructure Is An Investment That Will Prepare Montana For The Future.”**

“Today, Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for H.R. 22, The Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015, also known as the ‘Highway Bill.’ The bill passed overwhelmingly 363-64. This bipartisan bill will authorize \$325 billion dollars of funding and support infrastructure projects over the next six years. The Department of Transportation estimated the Highway Trust Fund will run out of money for infrastructure

projects in June 2016 if a new bill is not passed. About 87 percent of Montana's highway budget comes from federal dollars. According to Federal Highway Administration, Montana would receive about \$2.6 billion (slightly more than \$400million/year) through 2021 under this bill. 'I believe building a strong infrastructure is a fundamental role of government. Infrastructure is an investment that will prepare Montana for the future,' said Rep. Ryan Zinke. 'The highway bill is one of those 'must-do' bills because it supports such a huge part of our state and national economies. If we're going to strengthen Montana's businesses, we need reliable roads and highways. These are same roads that carry coal workers to the Spring Creek Mine in Decker; connect tourists from across the country to our many public lands; and allow ag producers to ship their resources across the state. I am glad to see our government finally step up and recognize this is not merely an expense, it's a path forward for every single Montanan.'" [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [11/5/15](#)]

#### **Zinke: "The Gas Tax Itself Is No Longer Sufficient To Fund The Highway Bill."**

"After years of highway funding breakdowns, Congress is poised this week to pass a long-term \$325 billion transportation bill that U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke said would benefit Montana. [...] 'The gas tax itself is no longer sufficient to fund the highway bill,' Zinke said. 'Our highway system is different. Our driving habits are much different, and today the cars are much more efficient. The bridges are more expensive and other things have been added to the transportation bill, things other than highways, like bike paths and landscaping and public transportation.'" [Billings Gazette, [11/5/15](#)]

### **FUNDING – SRS**

#### **Zinke Urged Chief Of U.S. Forest Service To Expedite SRS Payments To Montana's Rural Communities**

"Yesterday in a letter to Thomas Tidwell, the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke called on the federal government to expedite the delivery of much-needed SRS payments to Montana's rural communities, rather than wait the 45 days the recently passed law allows. [...] 'Montana's rural communities have waited long enough; I urge the U.S. Forest Service to expedite SRS payments to communities who have seen their economies decimated due to federal mismanagement of our timberlands,' said Rep. Zinke about the letter." [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/29/15](#); Zinke Letter, [4/28/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Claimed Communities Scheduled To Receive SRS Funding "Were Once Thriving And Now They've Come To Rely On The SRS Program To Fund Their Critical Infrastructure Programs."**

"A long-awaited vote on Forest Service payments to counties passed the U.S. Congress two weeks ago, freeing up \$285 million in support for local schools and projects across 41 states and Puerto Rico. [...] SRS payments evolved as a way of offsetting declining timber harvest receipts in the 1980s. In 2000, Congress passed SRS as a way to provide stabilized payments to states with tracts of National Forest Service land within their boundaries. The payments are similar to Payments in Lieu of Taxes, by which the Department of the Interior offers payments to local governments to help offset losses in property taxes on non-taxable federal lands within their boundaries. 'These are communities that were once thriving and now they've come to rely on the SRS program to fund their critical infrastructure programs,' said Heather Swift, communications director for Zinke. 'Everything that tax revenues go to support in these communities is now relying on SRS funding.'" [Great Falls Tribune, [4/29/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Supported Secure Rural School Funding, Said It Was "Absolutely Critical For Public Health And Local Economies In Rural Montana."**

"A federal funding program that will provide about \$1.4 million for Flathead County roads and schools this year has been reauthorized. The U.S. Senate on Wednesday voted to extend Secure Rural Schools funding for two years as part of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. [...] Secure Rural Schools funds will help more than 720 counties and 4,000 school districts across 41 states affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., called the bill "absolutely critical for public health and local economies in rural Montana." [Daily Inter Lake, [4/15/15](#)]

### **Zinke Supported Reauthorization Of SRS Funding, Said It Is Time “To Work On Timber Reform.”**

Zinke said, “Today I voted to reauthorize SRS funding for 2 more years. Now let’s get to work on timber reform.” [Twitter, RepRyanZinke, [3/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Bill To Extend SRS Funding, Which Would Provide About \$1.4m For Flathead County Roads And Schools, Was “Absolutely Critical For Public Health And Local Economies In Rural Montana.”**

“The U.S. Senate voted to extend Secure Rural Schools funding for two years on April 15 as part of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. The federal funding program will provide about \$1.4 million to Flathead County for roads and schools. The county should receive its payment within 45 days after the bill has been signed into law. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke called the bill ‘absolutely critical for public health and local economies in rural Montana.’” [Hungry Horse News, [4/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said “Funding For Infrastructure, Education, And Other Public Services” Was “Grossly Inadequate” Due “In Large Part To Federal Mismanagement Of Our Forests And Public Lands.”**

‘For too many of Montana’s rural and timber communities, funding for infrastructure, education, and other public services is grossly inadequate thanks in large part to federal mismanagement of our forests and public lands,’ Zinke said.” [Hungry Horse News, [4/28/15](#)]

## **OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

### **Zinke Voted To Add “Broadcasting Facilities” To The Definition Of Private Nonprofit Facilities That Are Eligible For Disaster Assistance**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Costello, R-Pa., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would add ‘broadcasting facilities’ to the definition of private nonprofit facilities that are eligible for disaster assistance. The bill would also expand the definition of communications under critical services to include ‘broadcast and telecommunications’ to clarify that radio stations are eligible for FEMA disaster assistance.” The motion was agreed to by a 420-1 vote. [CQ, [12/16/15](#); S. 1090, Vote 697, [12/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Waive Passport Fees For Disaster Response Teams That Respond To International Relief Efforts For Natural Disasters As Authorized By The Secretary Of State**

In December 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Royce, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would waive passport fees for disaster response teams that respond to international relief efforts for natural disasters, as authorized by the Secretary of State. The bill would also require the Department of State to report to Congress on the number of waivers issued under the bill.” The motion was agreed to by a 421-2 vote. [CQ, [12/16/15](#); H.R. 3750, Vote 699, [12/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Require GAO Study The Economic Impact Of The Slowdown That Occurred During Labor Contract Negotiations At West Coast Ports From May 2014 To Feb. 2015**

In November 2015, Zinke voted for the: “Reichert, D-Wash., amendment that would require the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on the economic impact of the slowdown that occurred during labor contract negotiations at West Coast ports from May 2014 to Feb. 2015, as well as steps taken to resolve the dispute and what other mechanisms are available to the president to avoid disruptions in future labor negotiations at ports.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 200-228. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H.Amdt.800 to H.Amdt.734 to H.R.22, Vote 605, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Barring Funds From The Davis-Bacon Act’s Prevailing Wage Requirements**

In November 2015, Zinke voted against a: “King, R-Iowa, amendment that would bar funds made available by the measure from being used in the implementation, administration, or enforcement of the Davis-Bacon Act’s prevailing wage requirements.” The amendment was rejected 188-238. [CQ, [11/4/15](#); H.Amdt.787 to H.Amdt.734 to H.R. 22, Vote 602, [11/4/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prevent Labor Dept From Issuing A Final Rule Regarding Fiduciary Standards for Retirement Investment Advisers Without an SEC Rule on Broker-Dealers**

In October 2015, Zinke voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prevent the Labor Department from issuing a final rule regarding fiduciary standards for retirement investment advisers until after the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issues a final rule on broker-dealer conduct standards. The bill would not require the SEC to issue a final rule. The SEC, before issuing a rule, would be required to report to Congress with certain information, including whether retail investors are being harmed by the lower standard for brokers and dealers and whether adoption of a uniform fiduciary standard would harm retail investors’ access to cost-effective and personalized investment advice.” The bill passed by a vote of 245-186. [CQ, [10/27/15](#); H.R. 1090, Vote 575, [10/27/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against A Requirement That The SEC Revise Its Standards For Broker-Dealers Within 60 Days Of The Labor Department Issuing Its Final Rule**

In October 2015, Zinke voted against a: “Lynch, D-Mass., amendment that would remove the bill’s provision that would prevent the Labor Department from issuing a final rule on fiduciary standards for retirement investment advisers until after the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issues a final rule on standards for broker-dealers. The amendment would replace the provision with a requirement that the SEC revise its standards for broker-dealers within 60 days of the Labor Department issuing its final rule.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 184-246. [CQ, [10/27/15](#); H.Amdt.732 to H.R. 1090, Vote 574, [10/27/15](#)]

### ***Sidney Herald:* “Zinke Said He Would Like To See The Slowdown Transform The Boom In Sidney Into A Growing Community.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, stopped by the Busch Agricultural Resource center just north of Sidney Tuesday for a tour of the facility and to talk with local workers about the issues important to them. [...] Zinke said he would like to see the slowdown transform the boom in Sidney into a growing community. ‘Communities allow kids to work at the (restaurants),’ he said. ‘We need the equilibrium in man power and to build the community around it. It’s better long term.’ However, infrastructure issues have prevented Sidney growing the way it should, he noted. Zinke said he is strong supporter of infrastructure, adding he sees it as an investment, not an expense.” [Sidney Herald, [10/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke: “We Need The Equilibrium In Man Power And To Build The Community Around It. It’s Better Long Term.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, stopped by the Busch Agricultural Resource center just north of Sidney Tuesday for a tour of the facility and to talk with local workers about the issues important to them. [...] Zinke said he would like to see the slowdown transform the boom in Sidney into a growing community. ‘Communities allow kids to work at the (restaurants),’ he said. ‘We need the equilibrium in man power and to build the community around it. It’s better long term.’ However, infrastructure issues have prevented Sidney growing the way it should, he noted. Zinke said he is strong supporter of infrastructure, adding he sees it as an investment, not an expense.” [Sidney Herald, [10/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Infrastructure Issues Prevented Sidney From Growing, And Claimed He Supported Infrastructure Investment In The Community**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, stopped by the Busch Agricultural Resource center just north of Sidney Tuesday for a tour of the facility and to talk with local workers about the issues important to them. [...] Zinke said he would like to see the slowdown transform the boom in Sidney into a growing community. ‘Communities allow kids to work at the (restaurants),’ he said. ‘We need the equilibrium in man power and to build the community around it. It’s better long term.’ However, infrastructure issues have prevented Sidney growing the way it should, he noted. Zinke said he is strong supporter of infrastructure, adding he sees it as an investment, not an expense.” [Sidney Herald, [10/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said Busch Agricultural Resource Center Had “Significant Concern With The Army Corps’ (Lower Yellowstone Irrigation) Project.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, stopped by the Busch Agricultural Resource center just north of Sidney Tuesday for a tour of the facility and to talk with local workers about the issues important to them. [...] The stop was one of 15 Zinke is making around the state, switching off town hall meetings and touring business facilities, from Browning to Colstrip. The stop at the Busch facility was to learn not only about the facility, but the struggles it is facing, including the threat of losing the irrigation weir in the Yellowstone River, which would hurt the company’s producers. ‘My take aways are you have a significant concern with the Army Corps’ (Lower Yellowstone Irrigation) project, you’re a good neighbor and you don’t have a problem with the railroad,’ Zinke said after his brief tour of the facility. Zinke was one of several Montana and North Dakota officials to sign a request to keep funding for the lawsuit-threatened project available.” [Sidney Herald, [10/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Signed Letter That Urged The Army Corps Of Engineers And Bureau Of Reclamation To Prioritize Concerns At The Yellowstone Intake Diversion Dam**

“Senator Steve Daines today led the Montana and North Dakota congressional delegations in urging the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to prioritize concerns at the Yellowstone Intake Diversion Dam. In a letter to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy and BOR Commissioner Estevan Lopez, the bipartisan delegations emphasized the economic benefit that the dam provides to both Montana and North Dakota.” [Office of Sen. Steve Daines, Press Release, [9/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Adding Amendment That The Measure Would Not Apply To Actions Brought Under Employment Discrimination Laws**

In September 2015, Zinke voted against: “DelBene (D-WA), motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would state that the measure would not apply to actions brought under employment discrimination laws.” The motion was rejected 179-239. [CQ, [9/17/15](#); H.R.758, Vote 500, [9/17/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Create Additional Requirements For Federal Agencies Regarding Claims Of Discrimination By Federal Employees**

In July 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Chaffetz, R-Utah, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would create additional requirements for federal agencies regarding claims of discrimination by federal employees. For example, the measure would require that agencies found to have discriminated against an employee to post a notice on the agency’s website and would require agencies to establish tracking systems for discrimination complaints. Additionally, the bill would require each federal agency to establish an independent Equal Employment Opportunity Program.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 403-0. [CQ, [7/21/15](#); H.R. 1557, Vote 448, [7/21/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Allow Federal Public Safety Employees To Begin Receiving Payments From Government Retirement Plans At Age 50, And To Expand Types Of Retirement Plans Available To Public Safety Employees**

In May 2015 Zinke voted for a: “Reichert, R-Wash., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would allow federal public safety employees to begin receiving payments from government retirement plans at age 50, equal to the age limit for such state and local employees, and it would expand the types of retirement plans from which public safety employees at all levels of government could receive such retirement payments.” The motion was passed 407-5. [CQ, [5/12/15](#); H.R. 2146, Vote 220, [5/12/15](#)]

### **Zinke Introduced A Bill To Reinstate & Extend Deadline For Commencement Of Construction Of The Clark Canyon Dam**

In April 2015, Zinke introduced “A bill to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam.” [CQ, Accessed [4/28/15](#); H.R. 2080, Sponsored 4/28/15, Introduced [4/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said DC Red Tape Had Prevented Program On MT Dams, Said State’s Hydropower Energy Resources Had “Potential To Provide More Affordable Energy To Montana Families And Small Businesses.”**

Zinke said, “Due to the layers of red tape in Washington, D.C., little progress has been made. Extending the federal licenses for these two dams will allow important upgrades to our infrastructure while helping tap into Montana’s extensive hydropower potential to provide more affordable energy to Montana families and small businesses.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Intro. A Bill To Extend The Deadline For Commencement Of Construction Of The Gibson Dam**

In April 2015, Zinke introduced “a bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam.” [CQ, Accessed [4/28/15](#); H.R. 2081, Sponsored 4/28/15, Introduced [4/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Said DC Red Tape Had Prevented Program On MT Dams, Said State’s Hydropower Energy Resources Had “Potential To Provide More Affordable Energy To Montana Families And Small Businesses.”**

Zinke said, “Due to the layers of red tape in Washington, D.C., little progress has been made. Extending the federal licenses for these two dams will allow important upgrades to our infrastructure while helping tap into Montana’s extensive hydropower potential to provide more affordable energy to Montana families and small businesses.” [Office of Rep. Zinke, Press Release, [4/28/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Instructing Conferees To Support Paid Sick Leave**

On April 14, 2015, Zinke voted against: “Van Hollen, D-Md., motion to instruct House conferees to recede from disagreement with the Senate with respect to a section in the fiscal 2016 Senate budget resolution relating to paid sick time, and recede from a provision in the House amendment that would assume changing Medicare to provide premium support payments.” The motion failed by a 187-239 vote. [CQ, [4/14/15](#); S.Con.Res.11, Vote 153, [4/14/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted To Prohibit Federal Employee From Being Paid For Any Time The Employee Was Using Official Time For Union Activities**

In April 2015, Zinke voted for a: “Hice, R-Ga., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to pay a Federal employee for any period of time during which such employee is using official time for union activities.” The amendment was rejected 190-232. [CQ, [4/30/15](#), H.Amdt.149 to H.R. 2029, Vote 190, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Prohibiting Contracts with Certain Individuals Disclosing a Proceeding with Disposition from the “Fair Labor Standards Act”**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against the “Pocan, D-Wis., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to enter into a contract with any individual whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) include the term ‘Fair Labor Standards Act.’” The amendment was rejected by a 186-237. [CQ, [4/30/15](#); [H.Amdt.138](#) to H.R. 2029, Vote 189, [4/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Against Defunding Prevailing Wage Requirements For Federal Contractors**

In April 2015, Zinke voted against: “King, R-Iowa, amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to implement or enforce the prevailing wage requirements under the Davis-Bacon Act.” The amendment was rejected 186-232. [CQ, [4/30/15](#), H.Amdt.150 to H.R. 2029, Vote 191, [4/30/15](#)]

## **Zinke Voted For Passage Of Resolution To Nullify NLRB Rule; Rule Expedited Union Representation Election Process**

On March 19, 2015, Zinke voted for passage of the joint resolution that would provide for congressional disapproval and nullification of the National Labor Relations Board rule relating to case representation procedures. The resolution passed (thus cleared for the president) by a vote of 232-186. [CQ, [3/19/15](#); S.J. Res 8, Vote 128, [3/19/15](#)]

## **Zinke Said The Laurel Intake Is A Priority For His Office, Stating It Will Take, “Grant Matching From The State,” During A Visit In Billings**

“Congressman Ryan Zinke visited Billings to talk about the water intake and future drinking water of Laurel. Zinke said, ‘the engineers said the fix is to replace the intake, make sure you lower it, make sure the intake is consistent, and doesn’t have the same problems as the previous system when you want to have flooding, and it’s fixable, but it will take some funding, take priority. A lot of it is grant matching from the state and this something that should be done.’ Zinke said it’s the last project that needs to be funded and the consensus with the city manager is that they want to fix the issue before next winter. The water intake from the Yellowstone River is a priority with Laurel and a priority with Zinke.” [KULR, [3/12/15](#)]

## **LOCAL ECONOMY & STATE GRANTS**

### ***Daily Inter Lake: “Zinke Made A Surprise Appearance At The [Grant Announcement In Kalispell], Relaying The Message Of Teamwork.”***

“Kalispell kept the celebrations coming on Friday in the presence of elected officials and business leaders under a rain-soaked tent at the CHS grain elevator on Center Street. U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., keynoted the event that officially announced Kalispell’s reception of the \$10 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant. The grant will be used to remove the rail lines paralleling Center Street and build a new rail park on the east side of town. [...] U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke made a surprise appearance at the event, relaying the message of teamwork through the entire process leading up to the grant announcement. ‘We’re all Montanans and we’re all Americans,’ the Whitefish Republican said. ‘Those who know me know that I’m neither red, or blue, I’m red, white and blue. And I can tell you we get a lot more done when we work together.’” [Daily Inter Lake, [10/30/15](#)]

### **Zinke Congratulated The City Of Kalispell For Being Awarded A \$10,000,000 TIGER Grant**

“Today Congressman Ryan Zinke congratulated the City of Kalispell for being awarded a \$10,000,000 TIGER Grant for infrastructure improvements at the Glacier Rail Park and Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail Project. He also thanked Senators Tester and Daines for coming together and helping with this critical project. In June, Zinke sent a letter of support to DOT Secretary Foxx on behalf of the Flathead Economic Development Council and the City of Kalispell. He followed up in August with a second letter reconfirming support, and Zinke and members of his staff made several visits to the site and met with project organizers. ‘I grew up around the rail line, this project has been close to me and the entire Flathead for a long time,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘The revitalization of the Glacier Rail Park will provide incredible benefits to the community, and I’m pleased Senators Tester and Daines recognized the importance of this project to the local, state, and national economies. I look forward to following the project’s progress in the coming years.’” [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/26/15](#)]

### **Zinke Claimed He Sent A Letter To Secretary Foxx On Behalf Of The Flathead Economic Development Council And The City Of Kalispell And Followed Up Multiple Times On The Grant**

“Today Congressman Ryan Zinke congratulated the City of Kalispell for being awarded a \$10,000,000 TIGER Grant for infrastructure improvements at the Glacier Rail Park and Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail Project. He also thanked Senators Tester and Daines for coming together and helping with this critical project. In June, Zinke sent a letter of support to DOT Secretary Foxx on behalf of the Flathead Economic Development Council and the City of Kalispell. He followed up in August with a second letter reconfirming support, and

Zinke and members of his staff made several visits to the site and met with project organizers. 'I grew up around the rail line, this project has been close to me and the entire Flathead for a long time,' said Rep. Zinke. 'The revitalization of the Glacier Rail Park will provide incredible benefits to the community, and I'm pleased Senators Tester and Daines recognized the importance of this project to the local, state, and national economies. I look forward to following the project's progress in the coming years.' [Office of Rep. Ryan Zinke, Press Release, [10/26/15](#)]

#### **Mike Jopek: Zinke Voted To Cut TIGER Grants By 80%, Then Attended An Event In Kalispell Celebrating The Recent TIGER Grant Awarded To The City**

"Last year the U.S. Transportation Department notified Kalispell that it would not receive any federal assistance to revitalize the core of the city. In 2013, Flathead County applied for the TIGER grant to move the redevelopment of the rail park. It did not make the cut. [...] The media reported that Congressman Zinke made a surprise appearance at the Kalispell ceremony talking about the work achieved when people work together. This stuck me as odd given that Zinke recently voted in Washington to cut TIGER grants by 80 percent for fiscal year ending in 2016. The White House even wrote indicating that it would veto H.R. 2577 and strongly opposes reducing TIGER grant funding by 80 percent, or \$1 billion. The White House wrote that the funding that the U.S. House and Zinke are trying to cut is 'despite the fact that the program is vastly oversubscribed due to strong State and local interest, supports some of the most transformative highway, port, and transit projects in the United States, and helps State and local partner leverage public and private dollars.'" [Flathead Beacon, Mike Jopek Opinion, [11/11/15](#)]

#### **Mike Jopek: Zinke Voted Against The Bipartisan Budget Deal That "Kept The Nation From Defaulting On Our Obligations And Assured A Level Of Public Services Through 2016. Services Include Things Like TIGER Money."**

"Last year the U.S. Transportation Department notified Kalispell that it would not receive any federal assistance to revitalize the core of the city. In 2013, Flathead County applied for the TIGER grant to move the redevelopment of the rail park. It did not make the cut. [...] Zinke also voted against the last bipartisan budget agreement law that kept the nation from defaulting on our obligations and assured a level of public services through 2016. Services include things like TIGER money and keeping our military well funded, as we are involved in multiple operations worldwide." [Flathead Beacon, Mike Jopek Opinion, [11/11/15](#)]

#### **Mike Jopek: "I'm Hopeful That Zinke Gets Back Into Governing And Campaigns Less."**

"Last year the U.S. Transportation Department notified Kalispell that it would not receive any federal assistance to revitalize the core of the city. In 2013, Flathead County applied for the TIGER grant to move the redevelopment of the rail park. It did not make the cut. [...] Zinke has plenty of political leadership ability; I worked with him in the 2009 Montana Legislature and watched him work with former Gov. Brian Schweitzer in the 2011 session. I'm hopeful that Zinke gets back into governing and campaigns less; he and Tester could get some really good stuff done for the rest of us." [Flathead Beacon, Mike Jopek Opinion, [11/11/15](#)]

#### **Zinke: "I Am For Local Control."**

"Congressman Ryan Zinke of Whitefish stopped into Glasgow for a visit with local and regional media, concerned citizens, supporters and schoolkids Thursday, May 7. His message was clear: 'I am for local control,' he explained generally, in quiet conversation with attendees at Farm Equipment and Sales. Our sole at-large congressional representative, Zinke has made his allegiances plain in the past. He describes himself as, 'a Republican,' but qualifies the statement by adding that he is 'a Montanan first.' His more pointed sentiments were a reprise of this position." [Glasgow Courier, [5/13/15](#)]

#### **Zinke: "The Impact Of Bakkan Has Been Devastating [On Infrastructure]."**

"Congressman Ryan Zinke of Whitefish stopped into Glasgow for a visit with local and regional media, concerned citizens, supporters and schoolkids Thursday, May 7. [...] He went on to address concerns about infrastructure, sage grouse, budget issues, small business and other subjects where local control are his

watchwords. ‘My job is to articulate Montana values as a lone congressman,’ says Zinke. He grew more specific in public comments. ‘The impact of Bakkan has been devastating [on infrastructure],’ he points out, adding that his roots are in the Eastern part of the state. His mother was born in Glasgow. He touched on regional idiosyncrasies in the state, with passing remarks about the detrimental effects of certain gubernatorial prerogatives regarding important legislation and the use of veto power. ‘Montana is different,’ Zinke repeated. As a candidate and active politician, he is widely respected for his accessibility and visibility in areas like Glasgow and Valley County, particularly with regard to veterans’ issues and complaints about benefits and other types of institutional support for military personnel. He gets around and takes pains to make himself personally available to his constituency in the areas where they live and work.” [Glasgow Courier, [5/13/15](#)]

#### **Zinke Aide Said The Governor Was To Blame For The Delay In Building The Kalispell U.S. 93 Bypass Because Democrats Were In Charge Of The Senate In 2014**

“It has been more than 20 years in the making, so state officials say they’re ready to complete the Kalispell U.S. 93 bypass. But standing on a hilltop overlooking the grassy corridor that is the proposed roadway, Montana Department of Transportation Director Mike Tooley said Congress has stymied the whole thing. [...] Bullock avoided talk of party politics on Tuesday, sticking to the idea of Congress versus state projects. But John Fuller, district director for U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., said that there is a partisan game going on in Washington, D.C. Fuller said that while there has been support in both parties for transportation funding, he pointed to the party that was in charge of the U.S. Senate prior to this year. ‘The reason for all those continuing resolutions was that the governor’s party was in charge of Congress,’ he said.” [Daily Inter Lake, [5/19/15](#)]

#### **Zinke said that \$35 Million for Eastern Montana “Should Have Been Tripled”**

In March 2014, Zinke said that the \$35 million bill that the Governor vetoed in May 2013 that would have helped eastern Montanan communities build new facilities to handle the influx of people from the oil boom, “should have been tripled.” [Sidney Herald, 3/11/14]

#### **Voted Against Establishing a Process to Legally Recognize County Roads**

In March 2009, Zinke voted against establishing a process for a district court to recognize a route of a county road, as a legal route, if certain conditions were met. The bill passed (46-4). [[HB 563](#), [3/30/09](#)]

# INTEREST GROUP RATINGS

## Zinke's Ratings from 50 Groups

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>INTEREST GROUP</i>	<i>RATING</i>
2015	American Civil Liberties Union - Positions	0%
2015-2016	American Energy Alliance - Positions	80%
2016	American Motorcyclists Association - Positions	44.4%
2015	American Thoracic Society - Positions	0%
2015	Americans for Prosperity - Lifetime Score	82%
2015	Americans for Prosperity - Positions	82%
2014	Animal Welfare Institute - Positions	0%
2015	Business-Industry Political Action Committee - Positions	100%
2016	Cato Institute - Votes Opposing Trade Barriers	100%
2016	Cato Institute - Votes Opposing Trade Subsidies	0%
2016	Conservative Review - Overall Positions	33%
2016	Conservative Review - Overall Positions	F
2015-2016	Council for a Livable World - Positions	0%
2015	Food Policy Action - Positions	20%
2015	FreedomWorks - Overall Positions	62%
2016	Heritage Action - Overall Positions	50%
2015	Humane Society Legislative Fund - Positions	22%
2011	Montana AFL-CIO - Positions	60%
2009	Montana AFL-CIO - Positions	91%
2011	Montana Audubon - Positions	45%
2009	Montana Audubon - Positions	50%
2011	Montana Chamber of Commerce - Positions	92%
2009	Montana Chamber of Commerce - Positions	92%
2011	Montana Conservation Voters - Positions	60%
2009	Montana Conservation Voters - Positions	54%
2011	Montana Conservatives - Positions	24%
2009	Montana Conservatives - Positions	11%
2011	Montana Contractors' Association - Positions	64%
2009	Montana Contractors' Association - Positions	82%
2011	Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers - Positions	25%
2009	Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers - Positions	73%
2009	Montana Environmental Information Center - Positions	40%

2011	Montana Family Foundation - Positions	90%
2009	Montana Family Foundation - Positions	67%
2011	Montana Human Rights Network - Positions	25%
2009	Montana Human Rights Network - Positions	44
2011	Montana Medical Association - Positions	89.7%
2009-2010	Montana National Federation of Independent Business - Positions on Pro-Small Business Policy	88%
2014	Montana Shooting Sports Association - Positions on Gun Rights	69%
2008	Montana Shooting Sports Association - Positions on Gun Rights	B
2011	Montana Sportsment Alliance - Positions	0%
2011	Montana Women's Lobby - Positions	20%
2009	Montana Women's Lobby - Positions	80%
2009	Montanans for Multiple Use - Positions	60%
2011	NARAL Pro-Choice Montana - Positions	0%
2009	NARAL Pro-Choice Montana - Positions	65%
2016	National American Iranian Council Action - Positions	F
2016	National Association of Manufacturers - Lifetime	0%
2016	National Association of Manufacturers - Positions	97%
2015	National Association of Police Organizations - Positions	83%
2015	National Education Association - Positions	F
2014	National Rifle Association - Candidate Positions on Gun Rights	57%
2008	National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund - Lifetime Score	42%
2015	National Right to Life Committee - Positions	100%
2011	Northern Plains Resource Council - Positions	55%
2009	Northern Plains Resource Council - Positions	45%
1989-2015	NumbersUSA - Lifetime Scores	75%
2015	NumbersUSA - Positions	75%
2013	NumbersUSA - Positions	100%
2016	Planned Parenthood Action Fund - Positions (Lifetime)	0%
2015	Population Connection Action Fund - Positions	0%
2015	Progressive Punch - Overall Lifetime Positions	7%
2015	Progressive Punch - Overall Positions	7%
2016	Space Score - Positons	84%
2009	Teamsters Local 190 - Positions	88%
2015	The John Birch Society - Positions	50%
2015	The New American - Overall Positions	55%

2016	United Food and Commercial Workers International - Positions	F
2009	United Property Owners of Montana - Positions	83%
2015	Western Organization of Resource Councils - Positions	80%

- [Project Vote Smart Website, accessed 2/22/16]
- [FreedomWorks, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Conservative Review, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Heritage Action for America, accessed 2/22/16]
- [New American, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Food Policy Action, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Montana Sportsmen Alliance, accessed 2/22/16]
- [National Association of Manufacturers, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Cato Institute, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Population Connection Action Fund, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Space Score, accessed 2/22/16]
- [American Motorcyclists Association, accessed 2/22/16]
- [United Food and Commercial Workers International, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Business-Industry Political Action Committee, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Montana Medical Association, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Council for a Livable World, accessed 2/22/16]
- [National Iranian American Council Action, accessed 2/22/16]
- [National Association of Police Organizations, accessed 2/22/16]
- [American Thoracic Society, accessed 2/22/16]
- [American Energy Alliance, accessed 2/22/16]
- [Western Organization of Resource Councils, accessed 2/22/16]
- [National Education Association, accessed 2/22/16]

## SPONSORSHIPS & COSPONSORSHIPS

### Sponsored Legislation – 114<sup>th</sup> Congress (2015-2016)

<i><b>BILL</b></i>	<i><b>TITLE</b></i>
H.R.286	Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2015
H.R.577	To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran.
H.R.1521	To rename the Captain William Wylie Galt Great Falls Armed Forces Readiness Center in honor of Captain John E. Moran, a recipient of the Medal of Honor.
H.R.1522	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and improve the Indian coal production tax credit.
H.R.2080	To reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam.
H.R.2081	To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam.
H.R.2358	Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act
H.R.2567	To posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to each of Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.
H.R.2644	National Forest Collaborative Incentive Act of 2015
H.R.2787	East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
H.R.3867	Clean Water for Rural Communities Act
H.R.4375	Repeal ID Act of 2016
H.RES.423	Expressing support for the designation of October 2015 as Special Operations Forces Appreciation Month in order to honor members of United States Special Operations Forces for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States.
H.RES.553	Urging the President and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to submit to Congress the text of all side agreements entered into between the IAEA and Iran with respect to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.
H.AMDT.601 (A071)	An amendment, numbered 39 to prohibit the use of funds to finalize, implement, or enforce subparts F and J of part 1206 of the proposed “Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform” dated January 6, 2015.

[thomas.loc.gov, accessed 2/22/16]

### Cosponsored Legislation – 114<sup>th</sup> Congress (2015-2016)

<i><b>BILL</b></i>	<i><b>TITLE</b></i>	<i><b>SPONSOR</b></i>
H.R.3	Keystone XL Pipeline Act	Rep Cramer, Kevin
H.R.6	21st Century Cures Act	Rep Upton, Fred
H.R.22	FAST Act	Rep Davis, Rodney
H.R.24	Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2015	Rep Massie, Thomas
H.R.36	Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act	Rep Franks, Trent

H.R.131	To amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to more comprehensively address the interstate transportation of firearms or ammunition.	Rep Griffith, H. Morgan
H.R.140	Birthright Citizenship Act of 2015	Rep King, Steve
H.R.158	Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015	Rep Miller, Candice S.
H.R.160	Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2015	Rep Paulsen, Erik
H.R.161	Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act	Rep Pompeo, Mike
H.R.167	Wildfire Disaster Funding Act	Rep Simpson, Michael K.
H.R.169	Critical Access Hospital Relief Act of 2015	Rep Smith, Adrian
H.R.173	Death Tax Repeal Act	Rep Thornberry, Mac
H.R.191	Repeal Executive Amnesty Act of 2015	Rep Aderholt, Robert B.
H.R.213	Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2015	Rep Chaffetz, Jason
H.R.235	Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act	Rep Goodlatte, Bob
H.R.271	COVER Act	Rep Bilirakis, Gus M.
H.R.287	American Job Creation and Strategic Alliances LNG Act	Rep Turner, Michael R.
H.R.303	Retired Pay Restoration Act	Rep Bilirakis, Gus M.
H.R.321	U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Improvement Act of 2015	Rep Sessions, Pete
H.R.340	Rebalance for an Effective Defense Uniformed and Civilian Employees Act	Rep Calvert, Ken
H.R.350	Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act of 2015	Rep Noem, Kristi L.
H.R.352	Environmental Protection Agency Accountability Act of 2015	Rep Duffy, Sean P.
H.R.360	Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2015	Rep Pearce, Stevan
H.R.373	Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act	Rep Heck, Joseph J.
H.R.401	Detaining Terrorists to Protect America Act of 2015	Rep Walorski, Jackie
H.R.417	Federal Workforce Reduction Through Attrition Act	Rep Lummis, Cynthia M.
H.R.456	Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act of 2015	Rep Murphy, Patrick
H.R.511	Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015	Rep Rokita, Todd
H.R.524	Local Control of Education Act	Rep Wilson, Joe
H.R.525	Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2015	Rep Massie, Thomas

H.R.528	Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act	Rep Benishek, Dan
H.R.556	Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act of 2015	Rep Bilirakis, Gus M.
H.R.592	Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act	Rep Guthrie, Brett
H.R.594	Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2015	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.R.596	To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes.	Rep Byrne, Bradley
H.R.641	Conservation Easement Incentive Act of 2015	Rep Kelly, Mike
H.R.642	To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.	Rep Walorski, Jackie
H.R.654	Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Protection Act	Rep Jolly, David W.
H.R.662	Traditional Cigar Manufacturing and Small Business Jobs Preservation Act of 2015	Rep Posey, Bill
H.R.692	Default Prevention Act	Rep McClintock, Tom
H.R.695	Healthy Forest Management and Wildfire Prevention Act	Rep Tipton, Scott R.
H.R.702	To adapt to changing crude oil market conditions.	Rep Barton, Joe
H.R.709	Prevent Targeting at the IRS Act	Rep Renacci, James B.
H.R.721	Short Line Railroad Rehabilitation and Investment Act of 2015	Rep Jenkins, Lynn
H.R.745	Medicare Ambulance Access, Fraud Prevention, and Reform Act of 2015	Rep Walden, Greg
H.R.751	Bringing Terrorists to Justice Act	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.R.767	Fair BEER Act	Rep Womack, Steve
H.R.845	National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act	Rep Lummis, Cynthia M.
H.R.866	Federal Land Freedom Act of 2015	Rep Black, Diane
H.R.868	Veterans TRICARE Choice Act	Rep Stewart, Chris
H.R.879	Ax the Tax on Middle Class Americans' Health Plans Act	Rep Guinta, Frank C.

H.R.918	Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act	Rep Johnson, Sam
H.R.923	Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2015	Rep Stutzman, Marlin A.
H.R.928	To repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.	Rep Boustany, Charles W., Jr.
H.R.948	Balanced Budget Accountability Act	Rep Messer, Luke
H.R.955	To authorize assistance and sustainment to the military and national security forces of Ukraine.	Rep Smith, Adam
H.R.975	Health Freedom for Seniors Act	Rep Huizenga, Bill
H.R.986	Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2015	Rep Hudson, Richard
H.R.997	English Language Unity Act of 2015	Rep King, Steve
H.R.999	ROV In-Depth Examination Act	Rep Pompeo, Mike
H.R.1034	To provide for an accounting of total United States contributions to the United Nations.	Rep Brooks, Mo
H.R.1062	Pilot's Bill of Rights 2	Rep Graves, Sam
H.R.1086	General Aviation Pilot Protection Act of 2015	Rep Rokita, Todd
H.R.1087	Wireless Telecommunications Tax and Fee Collection Fairness Act of 2015	Rep Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr.
H.R.1105	Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015	Rep Brady, Kevin
H.R.1106	States' Rights Municipal Broadband Act of 2015	Rep Blackburn, Marsha
H.R.1107	Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.R.1142	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent and expand the temporary minimum credit rate for the low-income housing tax credit program.	Rep Tiberi, Patrick J.
H.R.1185	Responsible Additions and Increases to Sustain Employee Health Benefits Act of 2015	Rep Stivers, Steve
H.R.1190	Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015	Rep Roe, David P.
H.R.1206	No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act	Rep Rouzer, David
H.R.1210	Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act	Rep Barr, Andy
H.R.1222	Gold Star Fathers Act	Rep Esty, Elizabeth H.
H.R.1233	CLEARR Act of 2015	Rep Luetkemeyer, Blaine
H.R.1234	Medical Freedom Act of 2015	Rep Price, Tom

H.R.1247	Improving Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015	Rep Graves, Sam
H.R.1249	No Free Rides Act	Rep McHenry, Patrick T.
H.R.1266	Financial Product Safety Commission Act of 2015	Rep Neugebauer, Randy
H.R.1287	Higher Education Reform and Opportunity Act of 2015	Rep DeSantis, Ron
H.R.1298	No Amnesty Tax Refunds For Illegals Act	Rep Johnson, Sam
H.R.1299	Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2015	Rep Kelly, Mike
H.R.1328	Denying Amnesty Bonuses Act	Rep Schweikert, David
H.R.1342	Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2015	Rep Walden, Greg
H.R.1356	Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015	Rep Coffman, Mike
H.R.1365	Ammunition and Firearms Protection Act	Rep McHenry, Patrick T.
H.R.1384	Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act	Rep Walz, Timothy J.
H.R.1387	Fairness for Farmers Act of 2015	Rep Ellmers, Renee L.
H.R.1389	American Jobs and Community Revitalization Act of 2015	Rep Barr, Andy
H.R.1399	Veteran Education Empowerment Act	Rep Frankel, Lois
H.R.1413	Firearms Manufacturers and Dealers Protection Act of 2015	Rep Schweikert, David
H.R.1443	Grand Canyon Bison Management Act	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.R.1475	Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015	Rep Johnson, Sam
H.R.1498	Hostage Recovery Improvement Act	Rep Hunter, Duncan D.
H.R.1523	Community Bank Access to Capital Act of 2015	Rep Garrett, Scott
H.R.1555	Forest Access in Rural Communities Act of 2015	Rep Walden, Greg
H.R.1581	Veterans Education Tax Security Act of 2015	Rep Gallego, Ruben
H.R.1599	Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015	Rep Pompeo, Mike
H.R.1610	Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act of 2015	Rep Ribble, Reid J.
H.R.1611	Protecting Access to Rural Therapy Services (PARTS) Act	Rep Noem, Kristi L.
H.R.1616	Natural Gas Gathering Enhancement Act	Rep Cramer, Kevin

H.R.1624	Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act	Rep Guthrie, Brett
H.R.1644	STREAM Act	Rep Mooney, Alexander X.
H.R.1654	To authorize the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government, and for other purposes.	Rep Royce, Edward R.
H.R.1683	United States Coast Guard Commemorative Coin Act	Rep Courtney, Joe
H.R.1726	Access to Quality Diabetes Education Act of 2015	Rep Whitfield, Ed
H.R.1737	Reforming CFPB Indirect Auto Financing Guidance Act	Rep Guinta, Frank C.
H.R.1752	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make members of health care sharing ministries eligible to establish health savings accounts.	Rep Kelly, Mike
H.R.1759	ALERT Act of 2015	Rep Ratcliffe, John
H.R.1793	Sage-Grouse and Mule Deer Habitat Conservation and Restoration Act of 2015	Rep Stewart, Chris
H.R.1814	To permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.	Rep Grijalva, Raul M.
H.R.1830	Water Rights Protection Act	Rep Tipton, Scott R.
H.R.1842	Indian Health Service Health Professions Tax Fairness Act of 2015	Rep Valadao, David G.
H.R.1853	To direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes.	Rep Salmon, Matt
H.R.1869	Environmental Compliance Cost Transparency Act of 2015	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.R.1876	Real Unemployment Calculation Act	Rep Hunter, Duncan D.
H.R.1937	National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2015	Rep Amodei, Mark E.
H.R.1986	Stop EPA Overregulation of Rural Americans	Rep Rouzer, David
H.R.1989	Encourage New Legalized Immigrants to Start Training Act	Rep Denham, Jeff
H.R.1994	VA Accountability Act of 2015	Rep Miller, Jeff
H.R.1997	Sage-Grouse Protection and Conservation Act	Rep Stewart, Chris

H.R.2011	To amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the authority of the Secretaries of the military departments to revoke combat valor awards.	Rep Hunter, Duncan D.
H.R.2042	Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015	Rep Whitfield, Ed
H.R.2043	Diagnostic Imaging Services Access Protection Act of 2015	Rep Olson, Pete
H.R.2058	FDA Deeming Authority Clarification Act of 2015	Rep Cole, Tom
H.R.2096	Promotion and Expansion of Private Employee Ownership Act of 2015	Rep Reichert, David G.
H.R.2156	Medicare Audit Improvement Act of 2015	Rep Graves, Sam
H.R.2210	Coach-Only Airfare for Capitol Hill Act of 2015	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.R.2215	Outdoor Recreation Enhancement Act	Rep Stewart, Chris
H.R.2259	Protect Our Military Families' 2nd Amendment Rights Act	Rep Rigell, E. Scott
H.R.2400	SIGMA Act of 2015	Rep Roskam, Peter J.
H.R.2484	Stop Birth Tourism Act of 2015	Rep Rohrabacher, Dana
H.R.2514	Helping Veterans Save for Health Care Act of 2015	Rep Johnson, Sam
H.R.2531	ACES Act of 2015	Rep Duckworth, Tammy
H.R.2551	Veterans' Entry to Apprenticeship Act	Rep McSally, Martha
H.R.2566	Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2015	Rep Young, David
H.R.2606	Roads Not Roses Act	Rep Hartzler, Vicky
H.R.2646	Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015	Rep Murphy, Tim
H.R.2647	Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015	Rep Westerman, Bruce
H.R.2652	Protecting Patients and Physicians Against Coding Act of 2015	Rep Palmer, Gary J.
H.R.2663	Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2015	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.R.2698	Tanning Tax Repeal Act of 2015	Rep Holding, George
H.R.2710	Lawful Purpose and Self Defense Act	Rep Bishop, Rob
H.R.2722	Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act	Rep Maloney, Carolyn B.
H.R.2760	American Indian Trust Responsibility Review Act of 2015	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.R.2802	First Amendment Defense Act	Rep Labrador, Raul R.
H.R.2817	National Historic Preservation Amendments Act of 2015	Rep Turner, Michael R.

H.R.2818	Protecting Adoption Act	Rep Hartzler, Vicky
H.R.2835	Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015	Rep McSally, Martha
H.R.2894	CARE for All Veterans Act	Rep Esty, Elizabeth H.
H.R.2898	Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015	Rep Valadao, David G.
H.R.2901	Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act	Rep Ross, Dennis A.
H.R.2903	Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act of 2015	Rep Paulsen, Erik
H.R.2905	SCOTUScare Act of 2015	Rep Babin, Brian
H.R.2910	Mexican Wolf Transparency and Accountability Act	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.R.2914	Build a Better VA Act	Rep Brownley, Julia
H.R.2948	Medicare Telehealth Parity Act of 2015	Rep Thompson, Mike
H.R.3011	Establishing Mandatory Minimums for Illegal Reentry Act of 2015	Rep Salmon, Matt
H.R.3080	Tribal Employment and Jobs Protection Act	Rep Noem, Kristi L.
H.R.3115	Enhancing Safety at Military Installations Act	Rep DesJarlais, Scott
H.R.3119	Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act	Rep Engel, Eliot L.
H.R.3139	Securing Military Personnel Response Firearm Initiative Act	Rep Hunter, Duncan D.
H.R.3188	COST Act	Rep Graves, Sam
H.R.3268	PAST Act	Rep Yoho, Ted S.
H.R.3314	Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015	Rep Babin, Brian
H.R.3363	Federal Wildland Firefighter Recognition Act	Rep LaMalfa, Doug
H.R.3457	Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act	Rep Meehan, Patrick
H.R.3459	Protecting Local Business Opportunity Act	Rep Kline, John
H.R.3488	Safe, Flexible, and Efficient Trucking Act of 2015	Rep Ribble, Reid J.
H.R.3516	Social Security Beneficiary 2nd Amendment Rights Protection Act	Rep Johnson, Sam
H.R.3531	No Exemptions for EPA Act of 2015	Rep Westmoreland, Lynn A.
H.R.3534	AUDIT Act	Rep Guinta, Frank C.
H.R.3573	Refugee Resettlement Oversight and Security Act of 2015	Rep McCaul, Michael T.
H.R.3651	Positive Train Control Enforcement and Implementation Act of 2015	Rep Shuster, Bill
H.R.3655	EPA Pays Act	Rep Westmoreland, Lynn A.

H.R.3662	Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act	Rep Russell, Steve
H.R.3734	Mining Schools Enhancement Act	Rep Hardy, Cresent
H.R.3739	Veterans' Expanded Trucking Opportunities Act	Rep Woodall, Rob
H.R.3742	Access to Marketplace Insurance Act	Rep Cramer, Kevin
H.R.3750	First Responders Passport Act of 2015	Rep Issa, Darrell E.
H.R.3780	Putting Patients and Providers Ahead of Compressed Regulatory Timelines Act of 2015	Rep King, Steve
H.R.3799	Hearing Protection Act of 2015	Rep Salmon, Matt
H.R.3802	Alternative Ammunition Manufacturing Act	Rep Babin, Brian
H.R.3845	Crop Insurance Restoration Act	Rep Young, David
H.R.3929	Office of Strategic Services Congressional Gold Medal Act	Rep Latta, Robert E.
H.R.3931	To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 Central Avenue Suite 1A in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, as the "Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown United States Post Office".	Rep Westerman, Bruce
H.R.3932	ECONOMICS Act	Rep Newhouse, Dan
H.R.3940	Meaningful Use Hardship Relief Act of 2015	Rep Price, Tom
H.R.3946	Protecting Local Communities from Executive Overreach Act	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.R.3999	American SAFE Act of 2015	Rep Hudson, Richard
H.R.4032	States' Right of Refugee Refusal Act of 2015	Rep Poe, Ted
H.R.4038	American SAFE Act of 2015	Rep McCaul, Michael T.
H.R.4078	Give States a Chance Act of 2015	Rep Yoho, Ted S.
H.R.4087	Fair Treatment for Families of Veterans Act	Rep Love, Mia B.
H.R.4126	Guantanamo Transfer Prevention Act	Rep Yoho, Ted S.
H.R.4169	Fighting Against Imbalanced Regulatory Burdens Act of 2015	Rep Rothfus, Keith J.
H.R.4185	PACT Act of 2015	Rep Price, Tom
H.R.4186	Enemy Expatriation Act	Rep Dent, Charles W.
H.R.4197	State Refugee Security Act of 2015	Rep Poe, Ted
H.R.4251	Guard and Reserve Equal Access to Health Act	Rep Coffman, Mike
H.R.4257	IRGC Sanctions Act	Rep Nunes, Devin
H.R.4319	Second Amendment Defense Act of 2016	Rep Perry, Scott
H.R.4321	Separation of Powers Restoration and Second Amendment Protection Act	Rep Stutzman, Marlin A.

H.R.4336	Women Airforce Service Pilot Arlington Inurnment Restoration Act	Rep McSally, Martha
H.R.4348	DC Personal Protection Reciprocity Act	Rep Schweikert, David
H.R.4424	Rural Guard Act of 2016	Rep Young, Don
H.R.4451	Border Security Health Initiative Act	Rep McSally, Martha
H.R.4478	Draft America's Daughters Act of 2016	Rep Hunter, Duncan D.
H.R.4482	Southwest Border Security Threat Assessment Act of 2016	Rep McSally, Martha
H.R.4534	POSTURE Act	Rep Gibson, Christopher P.
H.R.4537	READI Act	Rep Carter, John R.
H.R.4570	100 Years of Women in Congress Act	Rep Meng, Grace
H.J.RES.2	Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.	Rep Goodlatte, Bob
H.J.RES.42	Disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to the matter of protecting and promoting the open Internet.	Rep Collins, Doug
H.J.RES.47	Supporting the establishment of a Presidential Youth Council.	Rep Larson, John B.
H.J.RES.55	Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.	Rep Brat, Dave
H.J.RES.59	Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act.	Rep Smith, Adrian
H.J.RES.66	Iran Accountability and Enforcement Resolution	Rep Hunter, Duncan D.
H.J.RES.67	Disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units".	Rep Ratcliffe, John
H.J.RES.68	Disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units".	Rep Ratcliffe, John

H.J.RES.71	Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units”.	Rep Whitfield, Ed
H.J.RES.72	Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units”.	Rep Whitfield, Ed
H.J.RES.74	Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone”.	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.CON.RES.17	Supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.	Rep Conaway, K. Michael
H.CON.RES.26	Effectuating the Compact for a Balanced Budget.	Rep Gosar, Paul A.
H.CON.RES.28	Expressing the sense of Congress that the President’s executive amnesty is illegal notwithstanding passage of H.R. 240, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2015.	Rep Mulvaney, Mick
H.CON.RES.33	Expressing the sense of Congress that the Federal excise tax on heavy-duty trucks should not be increased.	Rep Ribble, Reid J.
H.CON.RES.49	Recognizing the daisy as the flower for military caregivers.	Rep Collins, Doug
H.CON.RES.66	Recognizing and honoring the 25th anniversary of the date of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.	Rep Langevin, James R.

H.CON.RES.97	Expressing the sense of Congress that the President should submit to the Senate for advice and consent the climate change agreement proposed for adoption at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris, France from November 30 to December 11, 2015.	Rep Kelly, Mike
H.RES.24	Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require a reading of the names of members of the Armed Forces who died in the previous month as a result of combat.	Rep Cartwright, Matt
H.RES.45	Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require each report of a committee on a public bill or public joint resolution to include an analysis of whether the bill or joint resolution creates a program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap with an existing program, office, or initiative, and for other purposes.	Rep Guinta, Frank C.
H.RES.54	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012.	Rep McKinley, David B.
H.RES.294	Expressing support for the continuation of the Perkins Loan Program.	Rep Messer, Luke
H.RES.310	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding Srebrenica.	Rep Smith, Christopher H.
H.RES.359	Providing that the House of Representatives disagrees with the majority opinion in Obergefell et al. v. Hodges, and for other purposes.	Rep King, Steve
H.RES.367	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in disapproval of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed to by the P5+1 and Iran on July 14, 2015.	Rep Roskam, Peter J.
H.RES.451	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Sergeant Charles Martland, a decorated member of the Special Forces, should be reinstated in the United States Army.	Rep Buchanan, Vern

H.RES.469	Urging North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member countries to meet or exceed the two percent gross domestic product commitment to spending on defense.	Rep Bishop, Mike
H.RES.485	Expressing solidarity with the people of Israel in the wake of recent terrorist attacks and condemning the Palestinian Authority for inciting an atmosphere of violence.	Rep McSally, Martha
H.RES.494	Impeaching John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, for high crimes and misdemeanors.	Rep Chaffetz, Jason
H.RES.500	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the State of Israel has the right to defend itself against Iranian hostility and that the House of Representatives pledges to support Israel in its efforts to maintain its sovereignty.	Rep King, Steve
H.RES.564	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the symbols and traditions of Christmas should be protected for use by those who celebrate Christmas.	Rep Lamborn, Doug
H.RES.571	Establishing the Select Committee on Oversight of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.	Rep Young, Todd C.
H.RES.588	Condemning and censuring President Barack Obama.	Rep Yoho, Ted S.
H.RES.613	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the restoration of authority of the American people and the separation of powers.	Rep McMorris Rodgers, Cathy

[thomas.loc.gov, accessed 2/22/16]

### Sponsored (Introduced) Bills from Montana State Senate

YEAR	BILL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
2009	SB 120	Revise the controlled groundwater area petition laws
2009	SB 167	Increase the penalties for equine abandonment
2009	SB 168	Revise highway and transportation laws
2009	SJR 13	Commemorate the centennial of Glacier National Park
2009	SB 184	Adjust bear, mountain lion and bison hunting license deadlines
2009	SB 187	Limit districting to 1% deviation
2009	SB 192	Small business work comp relief
2009	SB 202	Prohibit feeding of certain wildlife
2009	SB 213	Require FWP plan to manage wildlife to prevent disease transmission

2009	SB 214	Increase penalty for cattle theft
2009	SB 217	Reimburse livestock producers for tests for disease transmitted by wildlife
2009	SB 225	Sugar beet harvest weight exemption
2009	SB 241	Taxpayer Right to Know Act - budget database website
2009	SB 244	Revise income taxes for taxpayers
2009	SB 245	Revise fiscal note law
2009	SB 248	Resident benefits for nonresident members of Montana National Guard
2009	SB 252	Name law enforcement academy classroom building after Karl Ohs
2009	SB 257	Revise definition of renewable energy resource
2009	SB 279	Teacher signing bonuses
2009	SB 286	Revise milk control laws
2009	SB 289	Include killing poultry as basis for killing dog
2009	SB 290	Revise duties of energy and telecommunications interim committee
2009	SJR 17	Encourage consideration of horse transportation planning
2009	SJR 7	Opposition to HR 2421
2009	SB 304	Montana centennial farm and ranch program
2009	SB 315	Revise class eight business equipment tax
2009	SB 331	Revise laws on criminal use of official position
2009	SB 333	Require election of supreme court justices from districts
2009	SB 337	Revise laws governing bison--re: translocation of quarantined bison
2009	SB 343	Regulation of zebra mussel and other invasive species
2009	SJR 19	Urge federal government manage CMR wildlife refuge consistent with enabling law
2009	SB 356	Licensure for manufactured housing dealers
2009	SB 367	Electronic absentee voting for military
2009	SB 398	Revise work comp and unemployment law
2009	SJR 22	Governor's office to study and determine replacement schedule for state aircraft
2009	SB 424	Control disposal of mercury thermostats
2009	SB 429	General fund transfers to legislative branch for retirement and computer reserve
2009	SB 453	Air quality monitoring for elements to determine effects on bees
2009	SB 460	Committee to oversee and evaluate stimulus package funding
2009	SJR 28	Resolution requesting an interim study on recycling and solid waste recovery
2009	HJR 9	Support armed forces
2009	HB 324	Optional firearm purchase by retiring law enforcement personnel
2009	HB 486	Generally revise land use and planning laws
2009	HJR 22	Recognition of anniversaries for Russell and Rankin statues in Statuary Hall
2009	SB 503	Montana Economic Stimulus Act
2009	SB 504	Abolish income tax with RTIC designed replacement sales tax
2009	SJR 30	Study work comp rates and state fund
2009	HB 312	Increase population requirement for resort tax purposes
2009	HB 361	Local energy improvement district financing
2009	SB 192	Small business work comp relief
2009	SB 356	Licensure for manufactured housing dealers
2011	SB 114	Federal law enforcement officers should communicate with sheriff
2011	SJR 6	Resolution regarding federal land use policy
2011	SB 135	Clarify use of dogs to track wounded game animals
2011	SB 136	Revise residency requirements for hunting
2011	SB 144	Revise laws governing translocation of bison; prohibit free-roaming bison
2011	SJR 7	Resolution opposing clean waters restoration act and navigable rivers

2011	SJR 9	Resolution for a parental rights amendment
2011	SB 176	Prohibit qualified health plans from covering abortion services through exchange
2011	SB 179	Memorialize trooper David Delaittre
2011	SB 183	Revise interim zoning laws
2011	SB 185	Abolish death penalty and replace with life in prison w/o parole
2011	SB 198	Revise fiscal note law
2011	SB 199	Revise administration of income taxes and certain penalty & interest provisions
2011	SB 201	Require small business impact analyses prior to adoption of administrative rule
2011	SB 202	Shift serving hours of small breweries
2011	SB 203	Allow non-brewery sale of beer in growlers for off premises consumption
2011	SB 223	Revise volunteer firefighter pensions
2011	SB 232	Transfer state fund management of work. comp. old fund to successful bidder
2011	SB 236	Revise solid waste laws related to local government
2011	SB 237	Revise laws relating to brucellosis surveillance
2011	SB 82	Provide for a primary seat belt law
2011	SB 243	General revision of workers' compensation law
2011	SB 257	Referendum to revise election laws
2011	SB 270	Revise appeal process for unemployment claims
2011	HB 167	Criminalize offense involving death to an unborn child
2011	SB 275	Revise laws relating to public cemeteries
2011	HB 270	Provide for Trooper Haynes memorial highway
2011	SB 289	Increasing amount of liquor a microdistillery may sell a retail customer
2011	SB 290	Exclude independent contractor as employee under Human Rights Act
2011	SB 291	Disclosure of state publications and media expenses
2011	SB 293	Providing a legislative finding and a transfer of money between state fund accts
2011	HB 255	Provide that every March 30 is Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
2011	SB 321	Constitutional amendment modifying residency reqs for legislative candidates
2011	SB 322	Referendum to revise venue for lawsuits challenging validity of statute
2011	SB 324	Revise consumer protection laws and settlement proceeds
2011	SB 325	Referendum to require majority vote in general elections
2011	SB 326	Provide for a veterans home loan program
2011	SB 329	Generally revise K-12 laws
2011	SJR 12	Resolution urging oil and gas leasing of federal land
2011	SB 343	Revise Montana aquatic invasive species act
2011	SB 361	Generally revise gambling laws
2011	SB 375	Generally revise workers' compensation
2011	SB 378	Notice required for recording instrument affecting title to real property
2011	SB 380	Generally revise laws regarding employer conduct regarding politics, religion
2011	HB 230	Transfer board of crime control to corrections
2011	HB 334	Generally revise workers' compensation
2011	HB 594	Require a recycled content in state contracts and highway construction
2011	HJR 19	Resolution for veteran recognition
2011	SB 402	Provide for spring wolf hunts
2011	SB 203	Allow non-brewery sale of beer in growlers for off premises consumption
2011	SB 289	Increasing amount of liquor a microdistillery may sell a retail customer
2011	HB 467	Allow tax credits to community, tribal, technical, college endowments
2011	SB 403	Generally revise K-12 school funding
2011	SB 412	Revise laws to temporarily exempt tribal fee land in trust land process

2011	SB 414	Provide for control of wolves
2011	SJR 25	Joint resolution in support of Japanese affected by earthquake, tsunami
2011	SJR 13	Resolution for state management of gray wolves
2011	HB 83	Create prescription drug registry
2011	HB 296	Authorize the construction of the Southwest Montana Veterans' Home in Butte
2011	HB 445	Allow health care choice thru out-of-state policies
2011	HB 609	Referendum on freedom to choose health insurance coverage
2011	HJR 8	Interim study on reducing childhood hunger in Montana

## MONTANA SENATE VOTE COUNT

- A comprehensive list of bills that Zinke voted on while in the State Senate. The vote represents the “third reading” of the bill with all amendments included.

YEAR	BILL	DESCRIPTION	VOTE	VOTE COUNT	OUTCOME
2009	SB 10	Correct federal funding of drug treatment court	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 25	Repeal certain contingent provisions in coal and uranium mine reclamation laws	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 39	Extend duration of reserved water rights compact commission	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 7	Code commissioner bill	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 24	Repeal Montana Consensus Council statutes	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SR 1	Senate rules	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SJR 1	Joint legislative rules	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 42	Provide substitution procedure for work comp judge	Yea	48-1-1	Passed
2009	SB 125	Clarify composition of judicial nomination commission	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 141	Repeal franchise insurance	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 35	Committing jurisdiction forward physical and mental health information to prison	Yea	45-4	Passed
2009	SB 40	Clarify friend of respondent in involuntary commitment laws	Yea	47-0	Passed
2009	SB 47	Revise title loan act on license issuing and violating federal laws	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 74	Revise fire chief duties	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 91	Revise waiver of attorney by youth	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 133	Revise insurance laws	Yea	37-13	Passed
2009	SB 5	Land board approval for abandoned mine and reclamation program land transactions	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 33	Include certain biomass generation facilities in renewable power act	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 45	Clarify prosecutorial disclosure requirements	Yea	47-1	Passed
2009	SB 55	Generally revise fertilizer laws	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 103	Revise sentencing restrictions	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 108	Revise child custody statutes regarding military service	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 11	Clarify nontaxable amount of gross value of product -metal mines tax	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 23	Revise revenue streams to oil, gas, and coal natural resource account	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 43	Revise list of countries considered tax haven	Yea	49-0	Passed

2009	SB 48	Standardize statutes related to tax increment finance districts	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 116	Clarify aviation fuel tax distribution	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 2	Revise time for submission of legislative budget	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 29	Generally revise appropriation and budget statutes	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SB 54	Revise deferred deposit loan act on license issuing and violation of federal law	Yea	47-0	Passed
2009	SB 139	Fingerprints for misdemeanor offenses	Yea	39-10	Passed
2009	SB 31	Revise qualifications for fish, wildlife, and parks commissioners	Yea	28-20	Passed
2009	SB 32	Allow chiropractor to certify disability for hunting purposes	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 84	Clarify prison industries and training programs	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 86	Revise gambling laws	Yea	46-2	Passed
2009	SB 88	Revise and clarify school speed zone law	Yea	47-0	Passed
2009	SB 96	Revise mental illness evaluations in criminal justice system	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 98	Authorize local taxing jurisdiction for wildland fuel reduction projects	Yea	45-3	Passed
2009	SB 104	Revise estray notification and disposition requirements	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 169	Revise drug testing requirements for public officers	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 41	Clarify community college district approval process	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 126	Implement lifetime rodeo bull transportation permit	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 140	Remove termination of domestic violence fatality review commission	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 182	Revise grandparent-grandchild contact law	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 77	Volunteer EMT on board of medical examiners	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 89	Eliminate sunset for new worker training program	Yea	34-15	Passed
2009	SB 117	Revise or eliminate certain statutory appropriations	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 127	Revise insurance producer licensing laws	Yea	47-2	Passed
2009	SB 130	Repeal livestock entry transportation permit requirement	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 156	Revise law to coordinate certain political candidate filing deadlines	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SB 160	Clarify statutory disciplinary procedures for highway patrol	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SJR 2	Study community college establishment process	Yea	43-6	Passed
2009	SJR 6	Urge 24-hour operation for Turner port of entry	Yea	40-9	Passed

2009	SB 34	Extend boundary of community decay ordinances for fuel treatment	Yea	42-7	Passed
2009	SB 67	Require funding before school rules with fiscal impact implemented	Yea	28-22	Passed
2009	SB 68	Roadkill composting	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 78	Clarify mill levy limit for soil conservation districts	Yea	46-3	Passed
2009	SB 155	Require post-election audits of vote-counting machines	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 161	Carbon monoxide detectors in dwellings	Yea	47-2	Passed
2009	SB 168	Revise highway and transportation laws	Yea	47-2	Passed
2009	SB 171	Criminal damage to rental property	Yea	42-7	Passed
2009	SB 111	Clarifying DNRC initial wildland fire attack authority	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 131	Require DNRC to designate wildland-urban interface	Yea	34-16	Passed
2009	SB 152	Revise motor vehicle registration and driver's license laws	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 196	Designate American Indian Heritage Day	Yea	34-16	Passed
2009	SB 215	Revise reference to county share of county attorney pay	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SJR 4	Study option for improving administrative efficiencies in school system	Yea	38-12	Passed
2009	SJR 8	Urge development of K-20 education shared policy goals	Yea	33-17	Passed
2009	SB 26	Revise and extend prohibition on economic credentialing law	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 53	Revise trial period for hearing aid purchased from traveling vendor	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 115	Simplify income calculations for certain property tax assistance programs	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 181	Require tax information agents to report certain real estate transactions	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SJR 14	Study cooperative arrangements between state agriculture labs	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 65	Revise trust land funding laws	Yea	38-12	Passed
2009	SB 79	Reduced staffing for certain ambulance transports	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 82	Clarify Medicaid third party liability	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 135	Revise insure Montana program	Yea	45-5	Passed
2009	SB 176	Exempt persons executing surety bonds from CLE requirements	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 226	License for volunteer dentists and hygienists in public clinics	Yea	50-0	Passed

2009	SB 9	Authorize funding of transportation systems with revenue bonds	Yea	39-10	Passed
2009	SB 76	Revise enhanced recovery of oil and gas laws	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 121	Allow COPP to apply for court order to compel obedience to subpoena	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 136	Clarifying oil well unit spacing requirement laws	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 158	Revise number of judges in judicial districts	Yea	41-9	Passed
2009	SB 209	Uniform foreign country money judgments act	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 123	Revise MAPA regarding amendment of rationale	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 170	Revise travel reimbursement for travel to foreign countries	Yea	47-0	Passed
2009	SB 173	Clarify ability of school districts to share superintendents and principals	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 219	Revise time for calculating adjusted campaign contribution limits	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SJR 5	Continued interim monitoring of health care pricing and information disclosure	Yea	44-5	Passed
2009	SB 92	Castle doctrine for use of force in defense	Yea	45-3	Passed
2009	SB 189	Revise consumer protection laws and settlement proceeds	Yea	30-20	Passed
2009	SJR 15	Urge vigorous defense of gray wolf delisting	Yea	45-5	Passed
2009	SB 148	Revise and clarify local government laws	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 256	Revise access to youth court records for JDIP evaluations	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SJR 7	Opposition to HR 2421	Yea	32-18	Passed
2009	SB 81	Elect Board of Public Education	Nay	21-29	Progressed to House because an amendment to Montana Institution
2009	SB 80	Elect Board of Regents	Nay	20-30	Progressed
2009	SB 164	Revise FWP land management and acquisition re: Good Neighbor Policy	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 18	Revise fiscal note laws	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 113	State land fuel reduction pilot program	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 202	Prohibit feeding of certain wildlife	Yea	46-4	Passed
2009	SB 214	Increase penalty for cattle theft	Yea	45-5	Passed
2009	SB 247	Reporting requirements for nonferrous metals	Yea	44-5	Passed

2009	SB 252	Name law enforcement academy classroom building after Karl Ohs	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SJR 11	Request Congress fund bioproduct innovation centers	Yea	42-7	Passed
2009	SB 90	Clarify sponsor notification for administrative rules	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 184	Adjust bear, mountain lion and bison hunting license deadlines	Yea	45-4	Passed
2009	SB 185	Nonresident college student combination game license	Nay	47-2	Passed
2009	SB 197	Define court transcripts and provide for adjustments in transcript costs	Yea	47-2	Passed
2009	SB 208	Include nonprofit hospital employees in county health plan	Yea	41-8	Passed
2009	SB 222	Revise 4 lane construction on Highway 2	Yea	28-22	Passed
2009	SB 275	Add additional pharmacist to board of pharmacy	Nay	34-16	Passed
2009	SJR 3	Interim study to consider establishment of Montana Scholarship Program	Yea	42-7	Passed
2009	SB 237	Primary seatbelt enforcement for motor vehicle occupants	Yea	25-25	Failed
2009	SB 187	Limit districting to 1% deviation	Yea	27-23	Passed
2009	SB 227	Electronic filing and additional campaign reports	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 240	Residency requirements for public boards and commissions; clarify "residence"	Yea	27-23	Passed
2009	SB 249	Allow Montana driver's license for certain offenders	Yea	26-24	Passed
2009	SB 262	Allow per unit assessment in water and sewer districts	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 57	Revise laws governing special districts	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 97	Revise petroleum tank release laws	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 107	Require training on mechanized fuels reduction and fire suppression equipment	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 132	Clarify taxpayer confidentiality and exchange of info laws among state agencies	Yea	38-11	Passed
2009	SB 43	Revise list of countries considered tax haven	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SB 157	Audio-video hearings for certain mental health proceedings	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 188	Revise fish and game laws re: regulation of special elk permits	Yea	35-14	Passed
2009	SB 198	Tax biomass generation facilities up to 25 megawatts as class 14 property	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 235	Clarify law on who may indicate performance of psychological testing	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 246	Require signs on opencut operations	Yea	42-7	Passed

2009	SB 255	Include additional forms of indebtedness in annexation of fire districts	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SJR 16	Study cost of auto insurance and compliance with mandatory requirements	Yea	47-2	Passed
2009	SB 58	Revise local government laws	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 102	Revise public water supply laws	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 193	Survey monument preservation	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 201	Revise Crow Tribe water compact to allow change in use of escrow account	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 206	Eliminate term restrictions on EQC members	Yea	39-11	Passed
2009	SB 228	Prioritize protecting humans, livestock, and pets from predators	Yea	35-15	Passed
2009	SB 261	Generally revise transportation safety laws	Yea	36-14	Passed
2009	SB 297	Map state gravel resources	Yea	45-5	Passed
2009	SB 71	Revise orphan share and environmental quality protection fund laws	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 83	Confidentiality protection for review of emergency service calls	Yea	36-14	Passed
2009	SB 162	Restrict ability to limit hunting permits for certain species	Nay	23-27	Failed
2009	SB 204	Montana centennial farm and ranch program	Yea	34-16	Passed
2009	SB 243	Constitutional amendment to require majority vote in general elections	Yea	23-27	Progressed
2009	SB 276	Require absentee voter confirmation forms to be mailed annually, only in January	Nay	34-16	Passed
2009	SJR 9	Study student loan system	Yea	49-1	Adopted
2009	SB 49	Energy efficiency standards for construction of state buildings	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 62	Fix discrepancy in environmental contingency account funding	Yea	43-7	Passed
2009	SB 281	Revise driver license suspension law	Yea	43-7	Passed
2009	SB 311	Revise marriage licensure laws	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 340	Revise emancipation laws	Yea	45-5	Passed
2009	SB 341	Revise costs of criminal proceedings	Yea	41-9	Passed
2009	SJR 17	Encourage consideration of horse transportation planning	Yea	46-4	Passed
2009	SB 124	Revise absentee ballot laws and changes caused by death of candidate	Yea	50-0	Passed

2009	SB 229	Use party affiliation on canvass for organizing legislature	Yea	27-23	Passed
2009	SB 268	Revise law on securing of loads	Yea	38-12	Passed
2009	SB 273	Revise school trustee laws	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SB 294	Include roads as undertaking for municipal revenue bonds	Yea	43-7	Passed
2009	SJR 10	Study options for state work comp coverage	Yea	40-10	Passed
2009	SB 167	Increase penalties for equine abandonment	Yea	35-15	Passed
2009	SB 21	Clarify distribution of certain motor vehicle revenue	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 119	Medicaid buy-in option for individuals with disabilities	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 142	Repeal unisex insurance law provisions	Yea	27-23	Passed
2009	SB 174	Establish requirements for advanced pharmacist practitioner	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 280	Revise tax exemption of rental personal property	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 73	Revise laws on medium-speed electric vehicles	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SB 95	Temporary nutrient criteria for discharge permits	Yea	46-4	Passed
2009	SB 120	Revise the controlled groundwater area petition laws	Yea	45-5	Passed
2009	SB 296	Revise newspaper publication requirement for municipalities	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 299	Training and record keeping for notary public	Yea	40-10	Passed
2009	SB 325	Clarifying provisions of the Medical Marijuana Act	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 236	Abolish death penalty	Yea	27-23	Passed
2009	SB 51	Clarify responsibility of health care practitioners to patients	Yea	31-12	Passed
2009	SB 213	Require FWP plan to manage wildlife to prevent disease transmission	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 248	Resident benefits for nonresident members of Montana National Guard	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 271	Licensure and regulation for marriage and family therapists	Yea	29-21	Passed
2009	SB 331	Revise laws on criminal use of official position	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 335	Prohibit professional board discrimination	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 336	Authorize use of dogs to track wounded game animals	Yea	42-8	Passed

2009	SB 344	Revise laws governing wolf hybrids--reporting & ownership	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 376	Revise public utility laws	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SJR 19	Urge federal government manage CMR wildlife refuge consistent with enabling law	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 368	Good Samaritan law for retired doctors	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 371	Clarify applicability of "at work" for work comp purposes	Yea	39-11	Passed
2009	SB 46	Protection of unborn life as compelling state interest	Nay	28-22	Passed
2009	SB 224	Transfer \$30 million from general fund to work comp old fund	Yea	32-17	Passed
2009	SB 323	Provide default lease extension period for residential leases	Yea	46-3	Passed
2009	SB 330	Achieving accountability for state elder long-term care	Yea	43-7	Passed
2009	SB 375	Prohibit real property insurance in amount greater than value of improvements	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 390	Allow local government assistance from state	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SB 392	Revise subdivision laws	Yea	47-2	Passed
2009	SB 394	Expand types of elections that may be conducted by mail ballot election	Yea	33-17	Passed
2009	SB 395	Clarify beer franchise laws	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 400	Revise laws related to justice courts	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 401	Revise laws relating to treatment programs for certain medical licensees	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 405	Revise grandparent-grandchild contact law	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 437	Clarify fish pond licensure	Nay	38-12	Passed
2009	SJR 22	Governor's office to study and determine replacement schedule for state aircraft	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 151	Revise viatical settlements law	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 192	Small business work comp relief	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 250	Strengthen protection against counterfeit marks or logos	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SB 360	Revise major facility siting act	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 363	Exempt speaking at public function from work comp covered employment	Yea	44-5	Passed

2009	SB 387	Revise laws related to the Board of Environmental Review	Nay	27-23	Passed
2009	SB 430	Revise administrative provisions relating to DOR	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 8	Authorize regional water entities	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 231	Revise the impact fee enabling act to require service area report	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 287	Consumer health freedom and access act	Yea	32-18	Passed
2009	SB 300	Increase fertilizer fee check off to fund research and education	Yea	42-8	Passed
2009	SB 306	Definition of remainders	Yea	47-2	Passed
2009	SB 310	Restricting use of waiver of right to protest SID, RSID	Yea	35-14	Passed
2009	SB 356	Licensure for manufactured housing dealers	Yea	31-19	Passed
2009	SB 369	Revise county process and penalties for violations of noxious weed laws	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 391	Revise provisions on candidate withdrawal before primary	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 396	Alter criteria for permitting certain changes to points of diversion	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 404	Revise laws relating to the location of shooting preserves	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 417	Revise environmental impact laws	Nay	29-21	Passed
2009	SB 432	Revise ostensible agency law	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SB 451	Repeal the Megalandfill Siting Laws	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SJR 20	Urge Congress to legalize industrial hemp	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SJR 26	Honor native women by stopping violence	Yea	46-3	Passed
2009	SB 257	Revise definition of renewable energy resource	Yea	39-11	Passed
2009	SB 305	Revise subdivision and platting act	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 326	Revise medical marijuana laws	Nay	28-22	Passed
2009	SB 337	Revise laws governing bison--re: translocation of quarantined bison	Yea	31-19	Passed
2009	SB 345	Revise zoning procedures for due process	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 349	Revise state bidding requirements to protect proprietary information	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 353	Remove license tax incentive for ethanol	Yea	45-5	Passed

2009	SB 361	Revise property tax lien laws relating to receipted costs and notice form	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 399	Report on placement of youth with mental health needs	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 424	Control disposal of mercury thermostats	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 436	Nonresident outfitter-sponsored antelope license	Yea	28-22	Passed
2009	SB 438	Regulate sale of alcoholic energy drinks	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 441	Revise laws related to judgments and collections	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 449	Establish oil and gas education account	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 457	Revise scenic byways laws	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SB 470	Revise laws related to time limits on use of mountain sheep licenses	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SJR 25	Urge study of rural-urban issues by university system	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 285	Revise attorney fees for medical benefits in work comp	Nay	24-26	Failed
2009	SB 292	Revise coal severance tax	Yea	38-12	Passed
2009	SB 348	Const. referendum on annual legislative sessions, split into general and budget	Yea	38-12	Passed
2009	SB 374	Revise parental notification law	Yea	29-21	Passed
2009	SB 381	Direct department of justice to enter MOU on enforcement of alien laws	Yea	26-24	Passed
2009	SB 382	Prohibit noncooperation practices concerning illegal aliens	Yea	26-24	Passed
2009	SB 398	Revise work comp and unemployment law	Yea	39-11	Passed
2009	SB 409	Revise motor vehicle laws	Yea	46-4	Passed
2009	SB 411	Growth policy to include sand and gravel resource	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 413	Government not to racial profile immigrants	Yea	44-6	Passed
2009	SB 426	National bison range water compact	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 427	Create the Montana contaminated property compensation and restoration act	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SB 431	Revise laws on employer drug testing	Yea	27-23	Passed
2009	SB 434	Limit governmental liability for rodeo events	Yea	44-6	Passed

2009	SB 439	Extend specialty hospital moratorium	Yea	44-6	Passed
2009	SB 440	Exempt air quality permits from MEPA review	Nay	26-24	Passed
2009	SB 444	Revise prudent management of funds law	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SB 447	Clarify preservation of DNA in felony cases	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 468	Admissibility in evidence of seat belt use	Yea	31-19	Passed
2009	SB 471	Fuel criteria for state fleet and contractors	Yea	34-16	Passed
2009	SB 481	Exempt economic stimulus projects from MEPA	Yea	29-21	Passed
2009	SJR 21	Joint resolution on forest service study area	Yea	33-17	Passed
2009	SB 20	Purpose statement for MAPA	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 94	Revise closed water basin permitting laws	Yea	34-16	Passed
2009	SB 199	Promote alternative transportation by state employees	Yea	34-16	Passed
2009	SB 200	Restrict phosphorous cleaning products in certain areas	Yea	34-15	Passed
2009	SB 221	Revise laws related to animal cruelty re: animal hoarding	Yea	33-17	Passed
2009	SB 267	Electronic disclosure of campaign literature	Yea	38-12	Passed
2009	SB 286	Revise milk control laws	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 288	Require undertaking for challenges of energy development projects	Nay	28-22	Passed
2009	SB 290	Revise duties of energy and telecommunications interim committee	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 333	Require election of supreme court justices from districts	Yea	27-23	Passed
2009	SB 351	Revise residential mortgage licensing law	Yea	46-4	Passed
2009	SB 367	Electronic absentee voting for military	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 388	Incumbent workforce training	Yea	42-7	Passed
2009	SB 403	Revise electricity laws	Yea	39-11	Passed
2009	SB 406	Constitutionally define person	Nay	26-24	Passed
2009	SB 407	Revise district court confirmation of federal water contracts	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 442	Create shaken baby syndrome education program	Yea	48-2	Passed

2009	SB 445	Revise laws on dispensing prescription drugs	Yea	36-14	Passed
2009	SB 463	Clarify respite care options for people with developmental disabilities	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 475	Require notice of oil or gas lease sale	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 482	Generally revise subdivision and platting act	Yea	29-20	Passed
2009	SB 484	Adjust retirement dates for new PERS and TRS hires	Nay	24-26	Failed
2009	SB 485	Financial literacy pilot program	Yea	36-14	Passed
2009	HJR 8	Provide for combining E. Montana AG extension office with research facility	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 13	Pay plan for state employees	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	SB 322	Revise apiary laws	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 464	Prohibiting covenants not to sue in remedial actions on listed sites	Yea	36-13	Passed
2009	SB 476	Increase monetary amount threshold for felony	Yea	40-10	Passed
2009	SB 327	Protection for mothers to be	Yea	34-16	Passed
2009	SB 425	Revise laws governing funding and operation of Fort Peck fish hatchery	Yea	30-20	Passed
2009	SB 497	Creating the crime of obstructing a protest at a health care facility	Yea	33-17	Passed
2009	SJR 28	Resolution requesting an interim study on recycling and solid waste recovery	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SJR 29	Study retention of DNA evidence by state and local law enforcement agencies	Yea	44-5	Passed
2009	SB 216	Revise laws on school district interlocal agreements and on calculating ANB	Yea	44-6	Passed
2009	HB 74	Authorize archery seasons for mountain lion, wolf, bear	Yea	42-7	Concurred
2009	HB 90	Revise laws to consider llamas as livestock for wolf predation purposes	Yea	45-4	Concurred
2009	HB 100	Revise composition of mint committee	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 126	Authorize Dept of Admin to determine workers' comp policy for all state agencies	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 207	Revise renewable portfolio standard for size of community projects	Yea	38-12	Concurred
2009	HB 208	Revise renewable portfolio standard for compliance dates for community projects	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2009	SB 488	Require agencies to cooperate with tribes on cultural resources	Yea	25-25	Failed

2009	HB 76	Generally revise unemployment insurance laws	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 121	Revise military statutes for changes in Uniform Code of Military Justice	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 122	Revise false claims act	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 138	Revise employment safety and occupational health acts	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 159	Require actuarial opinion summary for domestic property and casualty insurers	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 160	Revise captive insurer laws	Yea	47-1	Concurred
2009	HB 171	Repeal state regulation of pro and semipro combative events	Yea	43-5	Concurred
2009	HB 205	Revise law on postconviction petitions	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 242	Revise juror fee laws	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 287	Authorize utility tree trimming on right-of-way and easements	Yea	45-3	Concurred
2009	HB 296	Tribal fish and game wardens as ex officio wardens under cooperative agreement	Yea	44-4	Concurred
2009	SB 462	Create lien on oil and gas proceeds for owners of interest	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	HB 61	Revise interlibrary program	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 120	Allow use of electronic bid bonds for highway projects	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 125	Amend law to delete reference to single state registration system	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 168	Expand asset eligibility for beginning farm loan program	Yea	45-3	Concurred
2009	HB 172	Provisional hunter safety certificate for persons with disabilities	Yea	46-3	Concurred
2009	HB 181	Authorize design-build water and sewer districts	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 368	Allow partial list of fees on grain placard -- warehouse Ops & commodity dealers	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2009	HB 80	Revise professional and occupational licensing laws	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2009	HB 94	Clarify liquor license laws related to security interests	Yea	47-2	Concurred
2009	HB 140	Increase excess sustained yield authority for forest health	Yea	43-6	Concurred
2009	HB 151	Revise breast reconstruction mandate to comply with federal law	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2009	HB 247	Generally revise agriculture laws--re: definition of natural beef	Yea	49-1	Concurred

2009	HB 273	Revise costs related to search and rescue	Nay	45-4	Concurred
2009	HB 293	Law enforcement certification for certain former military personnel	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 298	Limit nondeferment of judgment to commercial vehicles	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HJR 17	Study use of medication aides in nursing homes	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2009	HB 38	Revise laws to reflect passage of 6 mill levy	Yea	45-3	Concurred
2009	HB 46	Change date for quality educator loan repayment assistance	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 57	Clarify school district consolidations and annexations	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 101	Extend deadlines related to wage withholding in cases of theft	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 114	Clarify licensure and liability in public health emergencies	Yea	47-1	Concurred
2009	HB 149	Restitution and probationary supervision fees	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HB 244	Clarify law on absence by county officer	Yea	41-8	Concurred
2009	HB 245	Authorize counties to create compensated absence fund	Yea	39-9	Concurred
2009	HB 308	Allow donation of food as method of serving sentence of community service	Nay	32-17	Concurred
2009	HB 426	Clarify appointment of commissioners for regional airport authority	Yea	47-1	Concurred
2009	HJR 6	Urge development of K-12 education shared policy goals	Yea	42-6	Concurred
2009	SB 377	Prohibit business expense deduction for unauthorized aliens	Yea	33-17	Passed
2009	HB 23	Remove statutory references to Legislative Administration Committees	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2009	HB 39	Revise water right enforcement laws	Yea	42-7	Concurred
2009	HB 44	Revise DNRC participation in federal forest management planning	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2009	HB 70	Clarify application of exclusions from drug schedules	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 136	Clarify appointment process for Board of Personnel Appeals	Yea	39-10	Concurred
2009	HB 192	Prohibit legislators from changing vote during override poll	Yea	36-14	Concurred
2009	HB 278	Revise coal bond reclamation laws	Yea	39-10	Concurred
2009	HB 27	Revise universal system benefit laws	Nay	36-13	Concurred

2009	HB 285	Authorize use of gray water in commercial and multifamily structures	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2009	HJR 29	Rheumatoid arthritis awareness day	Nay	32-17	Concurred
2009	HB 82	Revise deposit of stranded 911 revenue	Yea	47-2	Concurred
2009	HB 118	Revise distribution of 911 funds	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 137	Revise license benefits for hunter access program	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 179	Revise renewable portfolio standard	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 203	Require landowner notification of animal relocation and release	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 288	Ban reproductive human cloning	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2009	HB 294	Revise natural gas laws	Yea	37-13	Concurred
2009	HB 311	Name portion of Highway 2 in honor of Evan Schneider	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 383	Revise fish & game laws re: free license for youth with life-threatening illness	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 37	Language modernization of MCA for comprehensibility and gender neutrality	Yea	43-4	Concurred
2009	HB 48	Revise laws relating to Growth through Agriculture program	Yea	42-5	Concurred
2009	HB 119	Revise employment laws, including workers compensation	Yea	39-8	Concurred
2009	HB 204	Revise work comp law re independent contractor	Yea	45-2	Concurred
2009	HB 223	Revise laws governing revocation of hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges	Yea	37-10	Concurred
2009	HB 283	Revise workers compensation act on exemptions, claims examiners, safety funding	Yea	47-0	Concurred
2009	HB 304	Name portion of US Highway 2 after Highway Patrol officer David Graham	Yea	47-0	Concurred
2009	SB 100	Increase coal board funding	Yea	43-6	Passed
2009	HB 45	Compliance with federal law for forest reserve payments	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 67	Rulemaking authority for Board of County Printing	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 129	Revise flood plain map adoption laws	Yea	43-6	Concurred
2009	HB 270	Revise floodplain laws	Yea	47-2	Concurred
2009	HB 324	Optional firearm purchase by retiring law enforcement personnel	Yea	49-0	Concurred

2009	HB 332	Address conflict between open meeting and student participation issues	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 363	Use retired teachers/administrators to fill vacancies without applicants	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 366	Authorize reciprocal fishing with adjoining states on contiguous river & stream	Yea	42-7	Concurred
2009	HB 432	Authorize school trustee election by acclamation	Yea	43-6	Concurred
2009	HB 545	Revise membership of county compensation boards	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HJR 27	Urge learning and use of first nations names in their own language	Yea	42-7	Concurred
2009	HJR 22	Recognition of anniversaries for Russell and Rankin statues in Statuary Hall	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2009	SB 452	Revise federal mandates act	Yea	29-21	Passed
2009	HB 41	Revise water quality laws for aquifer recharge or mitigation	Yea	41-9	Concurred
2009	HB 72	Clarify duration of caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 75	Revise environmental rehabilitation and response account use	Yea	31-19	Concurred
2009	HB 78	Revise timber salvage harvest laws	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2009	HB 93	Clarify EMS medical direction and handling of complaints	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 139	DNRC intervention authority in federal forest management projects	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2009	HB 153	Revise the Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Act (VCRA)	Yea	36-14	Concurred
2009	HB 418	Authorize investor owned livestock slaughter and processing plants	Yea	27-23	Concurred
2009	SB 343	Regulation of zebra mussel and other invasive species	Yea	44-3	Passed
2009	SB 350	Revise laws on HIV testing	Yea	46-1	Passed
2009	SB 460	Committee to oversee and evaluate stimulus package funding	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	HB 24	Recodify individual income tax laws	Yea	47-0	Concurred
2009	HB 55	Geographical restrictions on juvenile sexual offenders	Yea	41-6	Concurred
2009	HB 58	Eliminate social security contribution account from state law	Yea	47-0	Concurred
2009	HB 133	Streamline child support enforcement	Yea	45-2	Concurred
2009	HB 214	Revise medicaid eligibility for pregnant women	Yea	45-2	Concurred

2009	HB 230	Revise local government employee incentive program	Yea	43-4	Concurred
2009	HB 367	Revise postadoptive services law	Yea	47-0	Concurred
2009	HB 623	Revise laws governing disposal of county and city land	Yea	47-0	Concurred
2009	HJR 7	Urge modification of federal wildfire policy	Yea	44-3	Concurred
2009	HJR 25	Resolution for medicaid eligibility and procedures study	Yea	43-4	Concurred
2009	SB 264	Revise Montana facility finance authority	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 429	General fund transfers to legislative branch for retirement and computer reserve	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SB 467	Revise notice provisions for tax deed process	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	HB 21	Repeal termination date for recycling tax incentives	Nay	44-6	Concurred
2009	HB 150	Montana recreation responsibility act	Yea	46-16	Concurred
2009	HB 155	Require state agencies to develop procedures to protect personal information	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 193	Change name of Coordinator of Indian affairs to Director of Indian affairs	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2009	HB 195	Revise restaurant beer and wine license laws	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 291	Revise ins. law on glass & body repair to use average prevailing market price	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2009	HB 307	Prescription exception when drug not available locally	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2009	HB 322	Fair arbitrators act	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 326	Require signatures on construction lien releases	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 354	Revise private investigator laws	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 372	Revise exemptions from jury duty	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2009	HB 387	Generally revise motor vehicle laws	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 397	Establish close relative registry	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 407	Protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 621	Authorize local government beer and wine license for certain facilities	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2009	SB 22	Create Water policy committee	Yea	43-7	Passed
2009	SB 244	Revise income taxes for taxpayers	Yea	50-0	Passed

2009	SB 446	Revise specialty hospital law	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SB 495	Revise term limits -- amend constitution	Yea	42-8	Passed
2009	SB 498	Establish laws governing carbon sequestration	Yea	43-7	Passed
2009	SB 74	Revise fire chief duties	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	HB 54	Separate index for Montana Constitution	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 146	Require more details of campaign expenditures	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2009	HB 197	Clarify signature requirements for recall petitions	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 317	Guarantee special hunting license forfeited because of military deployment	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 365	Provide for PACE organization and waiver of HMO laws	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 622	Clarify constituent fund account laws	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2009	SB 234	Insurance coverage for autism	Yea	36-14	Passed
2009	SB 241	Taxpayer Right to Know Act - budget database website	Yea	33-17	Passed
2009	SB 245	Revise fiscal note law	Yea	29-21	Passed
2009	SB 263	Revise public defender laws	Yea	48-1	Passed
2009	SB 303	Update state water plan	Yea	45-5	Passed
2009	SB 500	Specify the proceeds of riverbed rent	Yea	31-19	Passed
2009	SB 502	Environmental impact ombudsman	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 505	Temporary permit for CBM water	Yea	28-22	Passed
2009	HB 243	Require a report and recommendations on the children's system of care	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 221	Revise time for eligibility for youth hunting license	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 593	Revise environmental laws	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2009	SB 37	Revise income tax credit for energy conservation expenditures	Nay	29-21	Passed
2009	SB 217	Reimburse livestock producers for tests for disease transmitted by wildlife	Yea	27-23	Passed
2009	SB 291	Montana railroad authority	Yea	31-19	Passed
2009	SB 379	Create offenses concerning illegal aliens	Yea	26-24	Passed

2009	SB 402	Clarify property rights for which just compensation is due when taken	Yea	32-18	Passed
2009	SB 418	Revise administrative provisions of individual income tax	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 435	No net gain in state land	Yea	26-24	Passed
2009	HB 290	Increase sales amount requiring produce license for farmer's market vendors	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	SB 260	Revise tax on publicly traded partnerships	Yea	46-4	Passed
2009	SB 465	Clarify ownership of streambeds concerning property taxation	Yea	48-0	Passed
2009	SB 491	Revise status of subdivision property tax for health insurance premiums	Yea	45-5	Passed
2009	SB 510	Abatement of half of coal gross proceeds tax for new underground mine	Nay	37-13	Passed
2009	HB 144	Clarify return to employment for public officers	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2009	HB 386	Right of disposition - funeral	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 400	Revise alcohol content of beer	Yea	40-9	Concurred
2009	HB 530	Clarify that practice of social work includes diagnosis	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	SB 499	Reduce coal severance tax rates for new production for green facilities	Yea	30-20	Passed
2009	SB 509	Revise contract sales price of underground mined coal	Nay	35-15	Passed
2009	HB 163	Revise tax incentives for motion picture industry	Nay	29-21	Concurred
2009	SB 38	Revise laws governing nurseries and plant dealers	Yea	42-9	Passed
2009	SB 370	Replace RIGWA with permit fee for sand and gravel operations	Yea	43-7	Passed
2009	SB 489	Revise taxation laws related to pipelines	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 503	Montana Economic Stimulus Act	Yea	31-19	Passed
2009	SB 511	Retail license to sell table wine for sacramental purposes	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	HB 19	Revise and clarify state election laws	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 71	Repeal sunset of hospital bed tax	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	HB 85	EMS grant program	Nay	35-14	Concurred
2009	HB 95	Cost of care contributions under Youth Court Act	Yea	49-1	Concurred

2009	HB 104	Revise source of funding for pay for state active duty for firefighting	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 147	Revise disclosure of certain late-stage campaign expenditures	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2009	HB 177	Define conditional discharge of an imposed sentence	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 161	Establish the Blackfeet-Montana Water Compact	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 222	Revoke hunting and fishing privileges until fines paid	Yea	41-9	Concurred
2009	HB 301	Include paralegal services in attorney fee awards	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 328	Eliminating petition signature requirements for certain candidates	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2009	HB 338	Carbon dioxide pipelines as common carriers	Yea	39-11	Concurred
2009	HB 343	Revise renewable energy portfolio standard	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 362	Limit liability for practice of disaster medicine	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 378	Exempt carriers for freight forwarders from work comp	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 402	Revise laws relating to land banking	Yea	35-15	Concurred
2009	HB 403	Include continuity of care in determining best interest of child	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 404	Uniform standards for certificates of survey and final subdivision plats	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 409	Create cancer drug repository	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 412	Revise liquor excise tax rates for smaller producers	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2009	HB 483	Revising laws governing board of environmental review related to energy projects	Yea	39-10	Concurred
2009	HB 488	Revise territory transfer laws relating to K-12 school districts	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2009	HB 509	Revise requirements for counting write-in votes	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 517	Critical incident debriefing	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 542	Revise motorsports manufacturers unfair trade practices laws	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 544	Require disability insurers to refund prepaid premiums without fees or penalties	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 546	Prohibit covenants restricting certain political speech	Nay	37-13	Concurred
2009	HB 557	Generally revise laws related to regional water systems	Nay	41-8	Concurred

2009	HB 563	Legalization of county roads	Nay	46-4	Concurred
2009	HB 567	Revise automobile dealer franchise laws	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 588	Revise coal gross proceeds distribution	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 626	Revise transfer from local police retirement plan to statewide system	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HJR 1	Interim study of biomass	Yea	37-13	Concurred
2009	HJR 4	Urge authority for gubernatorial wildfire fuel hazard crisis	Yea	35-15	Concurred
2009	HJR 14	Support self-defense in national parks	Nay	28-22	Concurred
2009	SB 490	Increase class eight business equipment tax exemption	Yea	33-17	Passed
2009	SB 507	Use of river beds	Nay	43-7	Passed
2009	SB 508	Revise motor vehicle laws	Yea	40-10	Passed
2009	HB 98	Revise energy performance contracting for state buildings	Yea	33-16	Concurred
2009	HB 116	Clarify proof of insurance for motor vehicles	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2009	HB 218	Generally revise fish and game laws	Yea	33-17	Concurred
2009	HB 263	Ensure patient's right to know costs of medical procedures	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 264	Patient's right to know insurer coverage provisions for medical procedures	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 357	Shorten delay period for when contractor pays % on late payment to subcontractor	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 433	Revise ages for compulsory school enrollment	Yea	30-20	Concurred
2009	HB 451	Require disclosure and warranties by builder or developer of new residences	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2009	HB 495	Clarify rights of residents association in mobile home parks	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2009	HB 513	Revise school district bonding capacity	Yea	42-8	Concurred
2009	HB 529	Generally revise MEPA	Nay	33-17	Concurred
2009	HB 572	Small Business Innovative Research	Yea	33-17	Concurred
2009	HB 591	Require an American Indian member on the Board of Parole and Pardons	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2009	HJR 33	Address receipt and expenditure of federal jobs and economic stimulus package	Yea	41-9	Concurred

2009	HB 34	Revise TRS retirement statutes; address return-to-work and funding issues	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 59	Generally revise retirement laws to comply with federal changes	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 103	Revise tow truck insurance reporting provisions	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 170	Ensuring tax qualification by IRS of certain retirement systems	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 190	Clarify bridge access law	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 228	Citizen self-defense and firearm rights	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2009	HB 371	Revise and clarify train crossing laws	Yea	43-6	Concurred
2009	HB 420	Allow local government to adopt energy conservation building codes	Yea	31-18	Concurred
2009	HB 466	Providing paid military leave for all public employees	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 477	Uniform adult guardianship and protective proceedings jurisdiction act	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 504	Revise laws on guardianship of incapacitated person	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	HB 628	Careless and reckless driving resulting in death	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 40	Revise water right permit process	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 107	Revise definition of enterprise funds	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 109	Generally revise retirement statutes	Nay	37-13	Concurred
2009	HB 112	Amend threshold for Legislative Finance review of budget change documents	Yea	44-5	Concurred
2009	HB 127	Provide for proceeds from military sales	Yea	40-9	Concurred
2009	HB 246	Exempt Montana-made firearms and ammunition from commerce clause	Yea	29-21	Concurred
2009	HB 374	Revise electrician licensing law	Yea	43-6	Concurred
2009	HB 486	Generally revise land use and planning laws	Yea	35-15	Concurred
2009	HB 499	Revising laws related to the upland game bird program	Yea	47-2	Concurred
2009	HB 531	Prohibit use technology for issuing citations not witnessed by officer	Yea	33-17	Concurred
2009	HB 533	Vehicular homicide under the influence- minor prosecuted as adult	Nay	38-12	Concurred
2009	HB 534	Require audio-video recording of custodial interrogations	Nay	44-5	Concurred

2009	HB 536	Revise interlock ignition device requirements	Yea	44-4	Concurred
2009	HB 574	Revise burglary law	Yea	46-3	Concurred
2009	HB 602	Restrict distance of commuting in certain state vehicles	Yea	37-13	Concurred
2009	HB 608	Liability for cleanup of damaged property	Yea	46-3	Concurred
2009	HJR 9	Support armed forces	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	SR 15	Confirm fish and game commissioner	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	SR 16	Confirm fish and game commission appointee	Yea	40-9	Concurred
2009	SR 17	Confirm fish and game commission appointee	Yea	40-9	Concurred
2009	SR 24	Confirm nominee for director of department of corrections	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2009	SR 26	Confirm director of Department of Administration	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2009	SR 27	Confirm director of Department of Military Affairs	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 269	Revise monetary credit for jail service	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 318	Regulate debt settlement companies	Yea	30-20	Concurred
2009	HB 373	Gold star families special license plates	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	HB 380	Revise motor vehicle fees	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	HB 384	Revise volume cap bond procurement laws	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2009	HB 416	Exempt certain biodiesel from state tax	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 475	Revise fee structure for online delivery of administrative rules	Nay	35-15	Concurred
2009	HB 630	Revise laws relating to improvement district revolving funds	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2009	HB 635	Repeal Montana equity capital investment act	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HJR 15	Study resolution on funding for a recreation and tourism enhancement program	Nay	27-23	Concurred
2009	SJR 30	Study work comp rates and state fund	Yea	46-4	Passed
2009	SJR 31	Study child trauma due to effects of domestic violence	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SJR 32	Study fetal alcohol and related syndromes	Nay	45-5	Passed
2009	HB 449	Revise state and local government finance laws	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2009	HB 480	Authorizing nonresident youth bird hunting at discounted price	Nay	46-4	Concurred

2009	HB 23	Remove statutory references to Legislative Administration Committees	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	SB 269	Revise the regulation of time shares	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SR 18	Confirm appointees to Board of Livestock	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SR 19	Confirm DEQ director	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SR 20	Confirm DNRC director	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	HB 653	Revise base taxable value of TIF for local disaster	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HJR 30	Study fire suppression issues	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2009	SR 32	Confirm nominee for director of department of transportation	Yea	46-4	Passed
2009	HB 6	Renewable resource grants and loans	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	HB 7	Reclamation and development grants and loans	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2009	HB 123	Extend coal trust funded econ dev programs-- reduce statutory approps	Yea	43-6	Concurred
2009	HB 171	Repeal state regulation of pro and semipro combative events	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2009	HB 238	Establish a Montana teen driver safety day	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2009	HB 306	Extend certain permanent license plates for motorcycles	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2009	HB 478	Eliminate licensing fees for small plant sellers	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 487	Classify as business inventories certain farm implements and construction equip.	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2009	HB 562	Allow change in application of protested school taxes to GTB	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2009	HB 585	Implement PL/PW recommendations: "Come Home to Hunt" pilot project	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	HB 670	Provide local government discretion in reducing tax value for certain property	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	SB 79	Reduced staffing for certain ambulance transports	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	SR 11	Confirm appointee to Board of Environmental Review	Yea	47-0	Passed
2009	SR 12	Confirm appointee to Board of Environmental Review	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SR 13	Confirm appointee to Board of Environmental Review	Yea	31-19	Passed
2009	SR 14	Confirm appointee to Board of Environmental Review	Nay	24-26	Failed
2009	SR 21	Confirm nominee for commissioner of labor and industry	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SR 22	Confirm nominee for director of department of commerce	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SR 23	Confirm DPHHS director	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SR 28	Confirm certain appointees	Yea	49-1	Passed

2009	HB 2	General appropriations act	Yea	27-23	Concurred
2009	HB 9	Cultural and aesthetic grant appropriations	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2009	HB 5	Long-range building appropriations -- include energy conservation	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2009	HB 10	Long range information technology funding bill	Yea	36-14	Concurred
2009	HB 11	Treasure state endowment appropriations	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	HB 128	Revise appropriations for aerospace and technology projects	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2009	HB 152	Quality schools facility grant program	Yea	32-18	Concurred
2009	HB 224	Loan reimbursement program for state institutional nurses	Nay	36-14	Concurred
2009	HB 258	Funding for insure Montana	Yea	36-14	Concurred
2009	HB 331	Revise laws relating to licensed establishments for health purposes	Nay	33-15	Concurred
2009	HB 459	Create and fund K-12 distance learning network	Yea	33-17	Concurred
2009	HB 464	Improve agricultural education	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	HB 578	Health corps for in-home medical care	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 629	Revise distribution of certain school revenue	Yea	35-15	Concurred
2009	HB 645	Implement receipt of and appropriate federal stimulus and recovery funds	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2009	HB 659	Require examination, recommendations for public pension benefit and plan changes	Yea	38-12	Concurred
2009	HB 676	Statutory implementation of general appropriations act	Yea	27-23	Concurred
2009	SR 25	Confirm FWP director	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SR 29	Confirm nominee as director of department of agriculture	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SR 30	Confirm nominee to northwest power and conservation council	Yea	49-0	Passed
2009	SR 31	Confirm nominee to Northwest power and conservation council	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	HB 262	Revise list of low emission wood combustion devices that qualify for tax credit	Yea	29-21	Concurred
2009	HB 312	Increase population requirement for resort tax purposes	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2009	HB 315	Increase amount and slow phase out of retiree exclusion from income	Yea	31-19	Concurred
2009	HB 575	Revise water laws relating to coal bed methane	Yea	30-20	Concurred
2009	HB 598	Revise independent contractor exemptions	Yea	49-1	Concurred

2009	HB 615	Web-based system to verify liability insurance coverage for motor vehicles	Yea	42-8	Concurred
2009	HB 674	Generally revise laws relating to state land	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2009	SJR 33	Study workers' compensation	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SJR 36	Study impacts of federal climate change programs	Nay	35-15	Passed
2009	SJR 37	Resolution to study income tax filing by married taxpayers	Yea	46-4	Passed
2009	SJR 38	Study health care disparities	Yea	33-17	Passed
2009	SJR 39	Study DUI laws and enforcement	Yea	42-8	Passed
2009	HB 636	Tax incentive to sell mobile home park to resident's group	Nay	27-23	Concurred
2009	HB 655	Revise agriculture laws	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2009	HB 656	Revise liquor store commissions	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2009	HB 657	Study taxation of oil and natural gas property	Nay	46-4	Concurred
2009	HB 658	Mitigate reappraisal	Yea	37-13	Concurred
2009	HB 662	License massage therapists	Nay	30-20	Concurred
2009	HB 669	Establish wood product industry loan program	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2009	HB 678	Revise opencut mining laws	Yea	39-11	Concurred
2009	HJR 31	Study marriage laws	Nay	23-27	Failed
2009	SJR 35	Study health care	Nay	36-14	Passed
2009	HB 55	Geographical restrictions on juvenile sexual offenders	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2009	SB 48	Standardize statutes related to tax increment finance districts	Yea	49-1	Passed
2009	SB 305	Revise subdivision and platting act	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SB 310	Restricting use of waiver of right to protest SID, RSID	Yea	50-0	Passed
2009	SB 404	Revise laws relating to the location of shooting preserves	Yea	48-2	Passed
2009	SB 427	Create the Montana contaminated property compensation and restoration act	Yea	47-3	Passed
2009	SB 457	Revise scenic byways laws	Yea	44-6	Passed

2009	HB 130	Grant program for local crisis services and jail diversion for mentally ill	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HB 131	State contracting for mental health emergency detention beds	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2009	HB 132	Diversion from involuntary commitment to short-term inpatient treatment	Yea	40-1	Concurred
2009	HB 97	Extend Bond Validating Act	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2009	HB 135	Revise laws implementing the Fort Belknap-Montana Water Rights Compact	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2009	HJR 35	Interim study of state employee bonus payments	Nay	43-7	Concurred
2009	HB 194	Statutory appropriation for county payment from hard rock mining trust account	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2009	HB 279	Revise laws relating to transportation	Yea	41-9	Concurred
2009	HJR 36	Interim study of family self-sufficiency and economic development	Yea	35-15	Concurred
2009	HB 52	Fund hydrogeologic study	Yea	38-11	Concurred
2009	HB 108	Revise deposit of restitution payments	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2009	HB 154	Make fire suppression fund permanent, fund and revise use	Yea	41-7	Concurred
2009	HB 3	Supplemental appropriations	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2009	HB 674	Generally revise laws relating to state land	Yea	37-13	Concurred
2009	HJR 39	Study development of additional community services for developmentally disabled	Nay	29-21	Concurred
2009	HB 158	Tribal eligibility for economic development loans	Yea	35-14	Concurred
2009	HB 213	Establish SW Montana veteran's home	Yea	36-14	Concurred
2009	HJR 32	Study impact of historic preservation and strategies for preservation	Yea	31-19	Concurred
2009	HB 644	Funding for national folk festival	Nay	27-23	Concurred
2011	SJR 1	Joint Rules resolution	Yea	32-17	Passed
2011	SB 26	Require notice that violation of temporary order of protection is criminal	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 41	Allow cities to establish courts of record	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 72	Revise contracting authority for community corrections programs	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 19	Provide for filing of affidavits of death in non-probate real property transfers	Yea	46-3	Passed
2011	SB 21	Court dismissal of case with no action	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 31	Code commissioner bill	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 32	Revise interim committee laws	Yea	48-0	Passed

2011	SB 27	Provide for acupuncturist on board of medical examiners	Nay	43-6	Passed
2011	SB 30	Revise laws on fiscal requirements under CECRA	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 49	Revise size of trailer license plates	Yea	41-8	Passed
2011	SB 59	Provide for a women's mural in the Capitol Building	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 63	Revise business entity statutes	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 87	Allow principal forgiveness for drinking water and wastewater revolving loans	Yea	47-2	Passed
2011	SB 23	Require midwives to disclose whether they carry malpractice insurance	Nay	39-10	Passed
2011	SB 36	Revise court costs and attorney fees in water cases	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 60	Amend security credit freeze law to protect certain persons	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 64	Revise Montana Bank Act re: interstate banking and holding company records	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 78	Adopt model language for Montana Guaranty Association	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 95	Revise notary stamp requirements	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 4	Provide immunity from civil liability for sports officials	Yea	30-18	Passed
2011	SB 16	Revise authority of board of horse racing and requirements regarding simulcasts	Yea	39-11	Passed
2011	SB 67	Temporarily suspend juvenile delinquency intervention program annual evaluation	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 112	Provide that hand-thrown spear is lawful means of hunting	Yea	27-21	Passed
2011	SB 124	Reorganize and recodify fish and game criminal statutes	Yea	48-0	Passed
2011	SB 12	Repeal obsolete business equipment property tax reimbursement	Yea	48-0	Passed
2011	SB 68	Clarify duty of driver in accident to remain at the scene	Yea	38-10	Passed
2011	SB 73	Allow state-operated health care facilities with spec ed to establish max age	Yea	45-3	Passed
2011	SB 152	Increase the penalty for sexual assault for second and subsequent offenses	Yea	48-0	Passed
2011	SB 11	Reduce withholding tax rate for lottery winnings	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 38	Revise laws related to state land trust interest and income revenue	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 47	Clarify powers of Board of Environ Review on air quality regs for forest equip	Yea	33-16	Passed
2011	SB 55	Implement the federal military and overseas empowerment act	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 69	Name the first floor east wing of the Capitol Building after Francis Bardanouve	Yea	45-4	Passed

2011	SB 5	Remove sunset provisions to milk control laws	Yea	46-4	Passed
2011	SB 46	Clarify extradition payments	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 53	Amend MAPA to change required language of an e-notice of proposed rule	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 66	Revise laws governing establishment of community college districts	Yea	44-5	Passed
2011	SB 74	Allow commodity dealers to use full or 110% bond for commodities to be purchased	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	HB 1	Feed bill	Nay	41-8	Passed
2011	SB 7	Require price of any renewable energy credit for sale or use in state be listed	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 62	Eliminate PSC's ability to assign customers to electricity buying cooperatives	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 65	Modify process for revising the state energy policy	Yea	46-3	Passed
2011	SB 76	Provide parole for those sentenced to custody of DPHHS and in state facility	Nay	41-8	Passed
2011	SB 128	Eliminate certain committees and councils in Dept. of Commerce	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 24	Revise involuntary commitment of alcoholics	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 28	Clarify mental health diversion grant awards are based on admissions to MSH	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 51	Eliminate req for physical observation of lottery by Legislative Auditors	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 99	Allow commission to the vendor for each super tag purchase	Yea	47-3	Passed
2011	SB 100	Disposition of damage awards for state land leases	Yea	43-7	Passed
2011	SB 109	Revise definition of eligible renewable resources	Yea	47-3	Passed
2011	SB 115	Prohibit disclosure of certain hunters' information	Yea	48-2	Passed
2011	SB 118	Revise laws on leasing of outfitter/guide equipment to include contracting	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 186	Provide initial limit of up to \$15,000 for funeral insurance	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 52	Add requirement for Legislative Audit employees to have background check	Yea	47-2	Passed
2011	SB 75	Allow flexible hours for local property tax operations	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 120	Require publishing of appointed members to all state agency boards	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 138	Clarify funding of MUS optional retirement program	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	SB 106	Clarify funding of MUS optional retirement program	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 125	Prohibit state gov't from administering fed health insurance purchase reqmnt	Yea	29-21	Passed

2011	SJR 7	Resolution opposing clean waters restoration act and navigable rivers	Yea	32-18	Passed
2011	SB 103	Water permit exemption for heating and cooling applications	Yea	36-14	Passed
2011	SB 104	Limiting a public utility's ability to implement inverted block rates	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 165	Revise professional board law regarding discrimination/trade restraint	Yea	42-8	Passed
2011	SB 203	Allow non-brewery sale of beer in growlers for off premises consumption	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	SB 9	Authorize use of petroleum mixing zones for petroleum release sites	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	SB 92	Revise falconry law to allow capture by nonresidents	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 136	Revise residency requirements for hunting	Yea	45-5	Passed
2011	SB 142	Revise public notice of predator transplantation	Yea	44-6	Passed
2011	SB 35	Revise laws related to navigable river beds	Yea	44-6	Passed
2011	SB 133	Prohibit harassment of sportsmen who purchase hunting licenses	Yea	47-3	Passed
2011	SB 173	Revise nuisance law relating to shooting ranges	Yea	48-2	Passed
2011	SB 90	\$3 from sale of deer/antelope B tag license for processing of donated game	Yea	47-3	Passed
2011	SB 109	Revise definition of eligible renewable resources	Yea	33-17	Passed
2011	SB 201	Require small business impact analyses prior to adoption of administrative rule	Yea	31-19	Passed
2011	SJR 6	Resolution regarding federal land use policy	Yea	34-16	Passed
2011	SB 117	Coordination between counties, districts, and federal government	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 132	Allow audiologist to sell hearing aid without hearing aid dispenser license	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 189	Revise pharmaceutical authority to administer influenza vaccine	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 3	Require state agencies to report on heritage properties	Yea	36-13	Passed
2011	SB 34	Revise interim committees	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 43	Revise the primitive parks act	Yea	34-15	Passed
2011	SB 149	Provide for a crime of predatory loitering for previously convicted sex offender	Yea	46-4	Passed
2011	SB 151	Provide a court surcharge to fund Montana Crime Prevention Association	Yea	38-11	Passed
2011	SB 153	Revise guardian ad litem laws to allow judges' discretion in appointed counsel	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 176	Prohibit qualified health plans from covering abortion services through exchange	Yea	27-22	Passed

2011	SB 180	Substitute term criminal mischief damage for damage to rental property	Yea	41-8	Passed
2011	SB 194	Revise electoral laws in Montana	Yea	47-2	Passed
2011	SJR 8	Resolution on urban-rural divide study by U-system	Nay	31-18	Passed
2011	SB 172	Classify energy storage equipment and compressed air energy storage for taxation	Yea	44-5	Passed
2011	SB 182	Eliminate 2 advisory units for board of regents	Yea	43-6	Passed
2011	SB 192	Revise motor carrier laws related to motor carrier classes	Yea	44-5	Passed
2011	SB 204	Increase minimum number of signatures to qualify Constitutional initiative	Nay	40-9	Passed
2011	SB 213	Designate Montana Highway 1 Pintler Veterans' Memorial Scenic Highway	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	SB 216	Designate the "code of the west" the "code of Montana"	Nay	29-20	Passed
2011	SB 218	Establish procedures related to protected plants	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 238	Increase jurisdictional limit for justice , city, and small claims courts	Yea	47-2	Passed
2011	SB 256	Revise laws relating to real estate brokers	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 179	Memorialize trooper David Delaittre	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 222	Revise qualifications for firefighters	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 246	Revising regulated telecommunications provider laws	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	HB 22	Extend the sunset on wireless 9-1-1 funding for less populated counties	Yea	45-5	Passed
2011	SB 195	Revise laws related to Montana seed laboratory	Yea	47-1	Passed
2011	SB 217	Revise award of costs to enforce constitutional right-to-know	Yea	47-1	Passed
2011	SJR 9	Resolution for a parental rights amendment	Nay	26-24	Passed
2011	SB 210	Provide penalties for certain communications for dangerous drug prescriptions	Yea	47-2	Passed
2011	SB 247	Clarify appointment of Montana Poet Laureate	Yea	44-5	Passed
2011	SB 248	Allow additional members for county tax appeal board	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 29	Mandatory alcohol server and sales training	Nay	30-20	Passed
2011	SB 57	Enhance penalty for consumer protection violations	Nay	41-8	Passed
2011	SB 215	Reduce state mark up on liquor based upon percent of Montana ingredients	Yea	46-4	Passed

2011	SB 223	Revise volunteer firefighter pensions	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 89	Reduce DEQ and local sanitation review times	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	HB 21	Revise adjusted tax rate under extended property tax assistance program	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 60	Revise laws related to the supervisor of motor carriers	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	SB 58	Lengthen time DNA evidence must be preserved in certain cases	Yea	27-23	Passed
2011	SB 185	Abolish death penalty and replace with life in prison w/o parole	Yea	26-24	Passed
2011	HB 54	Define order & program for certain Department of Livestock functions	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 89	Eliminate local registration, disclosure filing for legis, statewide candidates	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2011	SB 42	Authorize warrants to obtain blood or breath test in DUI cases	Yea	33-17	Passed
2011	SB 54	Establish a hybrid tier in TRS for new hires only	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 134	Provide for economic impact statements on FWP seasonal rules	Yea	30-20	Passed
2011	SB 184	Allow for bow and arrow bison hunt	Nay	38-12	Passed
2011	SB 229	Revise laws relating to state-tribal coop agreements act and PERS	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 267	Revise laws related to total maximum daily load development	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	SB 97	Revise parental notice of abortion and judicial bypass	Yea	30-20	Passed
2011	SB 144	Revise laws governing translocation of bison; prohibit free-roaming bison	Yea	31-19	Passed
2011	SB 168	Eliminate certain committees and councils in Dept. of Commerce	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	SB 242	Revising workers' compensation law on agricultural workers	Yea	35-15	Passed
2011	SB 268	Referendum to require election of supreme court justices from districts	Yea	30-20	Passed
2011	SB 111	Limit noneconomic damages in motor vehicle accidents	Yea	26-24	Passed
2011	SB 114	Federal law enforcement officers should communicate with sheriff	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 198	Revise fiscal note law	Yea	30-20	Passed
2011	SB 225	Revise laws governing qualifying small power production facility purchases	Yea	39-11	Passed
2011	SB 227	Requiring a report on advertising of state government services	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 258	Revise tow truck laws	Yea	49-0	Passed

2011	SB 269	Exempt certain nonprofit housing developers from manufactured housing provisions	Yea	39-11	Passed
2011	SB 271	Revising elements of the budgeting process for the PSC	Yea	29-21	Passed
2011	SB 275	Revise laws relating to public cemeteries	Nay	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 285	Revise geologic carbon sequestration laws to comply with federal regulations	Yea	41-9	Passed
2011	SB 307	Revising the privatization plan review process and public comment	Yea	30-19	Passed
2011	SJR 10	Resolution urging Congress to prevent EPA from regulating greenhouse gases	Yea	30-20	Passed
2011	SB 183	Revise interim zoning laws	Nay	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 191	Require septic system disclosure on property sale	Yea	39-11	Passed
2011	SB 206	Generally revise laws related to energy transmission siting	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 228	Prohibit creation of health insurance exchange under PPACA	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 234	Revising conditions for municipal garbage service	Yea	39-11	Passed
2011	SB 236	Revise solid waste laws related to local government	Yea	37-13	Passed
2011	SB 272	Revise laws related to psychologists prescriptive authority	Yea	35-15	Passed
2011	SB 279	Allow legislative security personnel w/permit to carry weapon into Capitol	Yea	30-20	Passed
2011	SB 311	Clarify laws relating to term limits	Nay	44-6	Passed
2011	SB 335	Revise laws related to stale-dated warrants	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SJR 4	Urge Congress to support Constitutional Amendment on balanced budget	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 113	Transfer statutory excess retirement funds in trust by school districts to TRS	Yea	44-6	Passed
2011	SB 208	Allowing Saturday school in K-12 schools	Yea	41-9	Passed
2011	SB 254	Provide state eminent domain authority for federal lands	Nay	27-23	Passed
2011	SB 289	Increasing amount of liquor a microdistillery may sell a retail customer	Yea	45-5	Passed
2011	SB 91	Update postal service requirements for proposed cities and towns	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 205	Limit supply service in another utility's territory	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	SB 212	Clarify FWP authority to manage wild buffalo or bison	Yea	43-7	Passed

2011	SB 255	Establish criteria for FWP commission decisions	Yea	30-20	Passed
2011	SB 260	Require car insurance companies to provide disclosure on how rates determined	Nay	36-14	Passed
2011	SB 277	Revise duties of Dept of Livestock re federal beef promotion; beef check off	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	SB 278	Provide for ambulance membership programs	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 280	Authorize commissioner of higher ed to develop self-insured student health plan	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 286	Revise certain coal prospecting procedures	Yea	41-8	Passed
2011	SB 287	Require certain corporate officers or managers of LLC's to obtain work comp	Nay	39-11	Passed
2011	SB 290	Exclude independent contractor as employee under Human Rights Act	Yea	47-3	Passed
2011	SB 292	Regulate underground coal gasification	Yea	31-19	Passed
2011	SB 294	Revise workforce training grant program	Yea	41-9	Passed
2011	SB 297	Provide a separate process for coal beneficiation	Yea	44-6	Passed
2011	SB 298	Revise land use laws regarding wildland urban interface	Yea	46-3	Passed
2011	SB 305	Revise energy policy	Yea	37-13	Passed
2011	SB 315	Revise school law on standard of review for school board decisions	Yea	26-24	Passed
2011	SB 320	Clarifying certain provisions of the Major Facility Siting Act	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 337	Revise probate laws and laws relating to civil proceedings	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 340	Clarifying the enforcement of laws related to fire hazard reduction	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 342	Define misconduct for unemployment insurance laws	Yea	47-3	Passed
2011	SB 352	Allow adverse driving record use in setting auto insurance risk classifications	Yea	45-4	Passed
2011	SB 354	Provide for Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 355	Establish a Montana university assistance program for private donations	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 367	Establish nutrient standards variances	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SJR 11	Urge the board of regents to require post tenure review for higher education	Yea	48-2	Passed
2011	SJR 14	Resolution urging improved Dept of Livestock communication on bison control	Yea	50-0	Passed

2011	SB 141	Address bullying in Montana schools	Yea	34-15	Passed
2011	SB 174	Prohibit state funds for movement or relocation of bison to Spotted Dog WMA	Yea	29-21	Passed
2011	SB 211	Revise salvage title law	Yea	48-0	Passed
2011	SB 224	Require legislative action for grant application for patient protection act	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 226	Amend utility net metering requirements	Nay	26-24	Passed
2011	SB 233	Generally revise environmental impact laws	Nay	32-18	Passed
2011	SB 241	Revise calculation of physician reimbursement for Medicaid services	Yea	36-13	Passed
2011	SB 276	Generally revise deviate sexual conduct laws	Yea	35-14	Passed
2011	SB 284	Revise laws to require reporting of insurance options chosen by legislators	Yea	46-3	Passed
2011	SB 291	Disclosure of state publications and media expenses	Yea	35-14	Passed
2011	SB 301	Moratorium on land purchases by dept. of fish, wildlife, and parks	Yea	29-21	Passed
2011	SB 303	Generally revise state land laws	Nay	25-25	Failed
2011	SB 304	Generally revise dependency and neglect laws	Yea	48-0	Passed
2011	SB 306	Revise mining laws regarding cyanide heap and vat leach open-pit mining	Nay	29-21	Passed
2011	SB 324	Revise consumer protection laws and settlement proceeds	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 327	Require DNRC to assess each dam owned or controlled for hydroelectric potential	Yea	48-0	Passed
2011	SB 330	Revise renewable portfolio standard laws	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 341	Revise certain unemployment insurance charges to employers	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 351	Revise laws governing managed care	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 356	Clarifying definition of good cause for water right objections	Yea	32-18	Passed
2011	SB 357	Revise laws for appointment and election of a resigning county commissioner	Yea	48-0	Passed
2011	SB 361	Generally revise gambling laws	Nay	38-11	Passed
2011	SB 366	Generally revise welfare laws	Nay	27-23	Passed
2011	SB 370	Require cost-benefit analysis of mandated health insurance coverage of service	Yea	28-22	Passed

2011	SB 374	Revise laws relating to election of party precinct committee representatives	Yea	47-2	Passed
2011	SB 384	Eliminate certain committees and boards in Dept. of Agriculture	Yea	45-3	Passed
2011	SB 388	Generally revise education laws for tenure flexibility	Nay	24-26	Failed
2011	SJR 12	Resolution urging oil and gas leasing of federal land	Yea	33-16	Passed
2011	HB 74	Allow for expedited relative notification in foster care cases	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2011	HB 182	Revise bond requirements for public schools	Yea	44-5	Concurred
2011	HB 204	Allow any school board trustee of certain districts to preside over board	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	HB 208	Revise law on providing and accessing student information	Yea	32-17	Concurred
2011	HB 294	Provide confidentiality of livestock testing info collected by Livestock Dept	Nay	43-6	Concurred
2011	SB 1	Amend assessment of rural SIDs and SIDs with parcel increases	Nay	41-8	Passed
2011	SB 219	Revise laws relating to property tax protest	Yea	45-5	Passed
2011	SB 283	Revise process for changing county boundaries	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 303	Generally revise state land laws	Nay	27-23	Passed
2011	HB 19	Clarify that the Clean Indoor Air Act applies to smoking of medical marijuana	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 244	Allow school districts to charge certain preschool fees	Yea	26-24	Passed
2011	SB 266	Revise local coal tax gross proceeds tax abatement	Yea	25-25	Failed
2011	SB 296	Increase penalty for each violation of dept. of ag quarantine	Yea	45-5	Passed
2011	SB 379	Generally revise county zoning laws	Nay	28-22	Passed
2011	HB 44	Repeal Montana Capital Company Act	Yea	45-0	Concurred
2011	HB 57	Allow informal service of process in board of personnel appeals proceedings	Nay	45-2	Concurred
2011	HB 84	Clarify Wage Payment Act - re: definitions - wage trust account	Yea	45-1	Concurred
2011	HJR 4	Resolution opposing designation of national monuments without state's consent	Nay	16-32	Concurred
2011	HJR 5	Establish Montanan's with Developmental Disabilities Appreciation Week	Yea	45-0	Concurred
2011	SB 261	Constitutional referendum to require annual sessions and reduce days	Yea	31-19	Passed

2011	HB 38	Extend bond validating act	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2011	HB 39	Revise statutes relating to military affairs	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2011	HB 76	Eliminate floodway obstruction removal fee assessed by DNRC	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 97	Amend supervision of Chief Appellate Defender	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 101	Revise sewer and water district finance laws and water authority laws	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2011	HB 17	Correct terminology describing state agency liquor stores	Yea	38-11	Concurred
2011	HB 58	Revise Fort Belknap People's Creek account	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 114	Amend Montana crime victims compensation act	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 156	Increase the rate of payment of interment allowance and headstone	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2011	HB 210	Revise laws relating to mobile home movers	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 263	Revise county water and sewer district assessment law	Nay	48-2	Concurred
2011	HB 359	Revise workers' compensation law on settlements & lump-sum payments	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	SB 207	Clarify regulation of bison	Yea	39-11	Passed
2011	HB 24	Revise aquifer recharge and mitigation laws	Yea	42-7	Concurred
2011	HB 47	Allow free fishing on Father's Day weekend	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2011	HB 63	Revise liquor laws related to nonprofits and protest	Yea	42-7	Concurred
2011	HB 65	Revise payment for court interpretation services	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	HB 96	Allow recovery of public defender costs in certain cases	Yea	46-3	Concurred
2011	HB 126	Amend youth court act to clarify sentencing authority	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	HB 187	Provide for Montana-made wooden products in highway and road specs	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	HB 268	Revise laws associated with bad check fees	Yea	26-23	Concurred
2011	HB 307	Prohibit building codes from requiring some mandatory sprinkler systems	Yea	33-17	Concurred
2011	HB 23	Clarify primary sponsor contact requirements for administrative rules	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	HB 94	Revise professional and occupational licensing laws	Nay	37-12	Concurred

2011	HB 118	Require Montana State Fund board member w/ exec management insurance experience	Nay	36-13	Concurred
2011	HB 119	Revise laws related to volunteer firefighters compensation	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	HB 127	Generally revise gambling laws	Nay	34-15	Concurred
2011	HB 327	Revise school administration laws	Nay	42-7	Concurred
2011	HJR 6	Establish an annual forest products industry week	Yea	41-8	Concurred
2011	SB 81	Revise commercial drivers license provisions	Yea	33-17	Passed
2011	SB 338	Revise laws regarding certain officials and public service announcements	Yea	34-16	Passed
2011	HB 252	Prohibit dept. of transportation from recovering indirect costs for fed grants	Nay	41-9	Failed
2011	SB 237	Revise laws relating to brucellosis surveillance	Yea	31-19	Passed
2011	HB 29	Expand criteria for extraordinary event exceptions to uses of credit information	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2011	HB 62	Repeal procedures to challenge municipal sewer system rates	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2011	HB 81	Create a securities restitution fund	Nay	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 86	Revise teachers' retirement system laws	Nay	35-15	Concurred
2011	HB 191	Revise regulation of retail food establishment exemptions	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2011	SB 385	Provide for parents as scholars program	Yea	35-15	Passed
2011	HB 78	Clarify the definition of "local owner" in Renewable Portfolio Standard	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 98	Direct proceeds from sale of state parks; deposit in state parks spec. rev. fund	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 120	Provide for audio minutes as official minutes	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 171	Allow standard license plates for motorcycle and smaller trailers	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2011	HB 176	Provide antelope tag for certain persons with terminal illness	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2011	HB 287	Collection of wolf hides for benefit of livestock loss reduction & mitigation	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2011	HB 356	Generally revise laws relating to addiction counselors	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2011	HB 367	Delaying motor vehicle insurance verification system implementation	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2011	HB 399	Allow transfer of salvage title work without notary signature	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2011	SB 110	Exclude land occupied by county road from taxation	Yea	29-20	Passed

2011	SB 199	Revise administration of income taxes and certain penalty & interest provisions	Yea	29-20	Passed
2011	SB 288	Provide administrative appeal for special district assessments	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 312	Revise metal mine laws	Yea	35-15	Passed
2011	SB 325	Referendum to require majority vote in general elections	Yea	26-24	Passed
2011	SB 329	Generally revise K-12 laws	Yea	31-19	Passed
2011	SB 333	Adopt Revisions to the Uniform Principle and Income Act	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 347	Revise the private property assessment act	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	HB 28	Revise requirements for proposed septic mixing zones	Yea	46-3	Concurred
2011	HB 37	Revise strip and underground mine reclamation act laws related to revegetation	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2011	HB 61	Allow local jurisdictions to set lower speed limits on unpaved roads	Yea	36-13	Concurred
2011	HB 70	Revise laws related to public employees retirement system	Nay	39-10	Concurred
2011	HB 288	Addressing residency for out-of-district students	Yea	47-2	Concurred
2011	HB 426	Revise incorporation laws to coincide with annexation laws	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	SB 376	Revise local government laws to expand maturity date limitations on investments	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	HB 52	Authorize municipal wastewater reuse	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 59	Revise renewable portfolio standard to include hydropower expansions	Yea	42-8	Concurred
2011	HB 99	Generally revise laws relating to absentee ballots and mail ballots	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2011	HB 103	Authorizing maintenance of reproduced tax records as official record	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 251	Eliminate requirement for a rear flagger on oversized loads	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 254	Revising motor club service laws	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 270	Provide for Trooper Haynes memorial highway	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 300	Allow more than 8 hour workday for certain industries if agreed to	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 348	Revise outdated reference for interest rates and provide alternate	Nay	41-9	Concurred
2011	HB 374	Implement the Uniform Power of Attorney model law	Yea	50-0	Concurred

2011	HB 380	Revise laws related to water and waste water systems and districts	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2011	HB 552	Provide workers' comp to volunteer firefighters and EMS workers	Nay	34-16	Concurred
2011	HB 42	Transfer fund balance from coal bed methane account to guarantee account	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	HB 49	Authorize the sale of bonds to fund Blackfeet water compact	Yea	43-6	Concurred
2011	HB 110	Generally revise workers' compensation laws	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2011	HB 141	Revise makeup, operation, procedures of the Board of Pardons and Parole	Yea	45-4	Concurred
2011	HB 181	Allow condo unit to be individually counted towards municipal zoning protest	Yea	42-7	Concurred
2011	HB 213	Allow operation of electric transportation vehicles by persons with disabilities	Yea	45-4	Concurred
2011	HB 259	Revise motor vehicle laws regarding intersections	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	HB 293	Provide tax exempt status for certain land owned by veterans' organizations	Yea	41-8	Concurred
2011	HB 446	Address homeless prevention for people under Dept. of Corrections supervision	Nay	23-27	Failed
2011	HB 484	Clarify receipt of absentee ballots for subsequent elections is not permanent	Nay	38-11	Passed
2011	HB 497	Revise right to appropriate water by permit	Yea	33-17	Passed
2011	SB 299	Clarify taxation and ownership river channel changed by avulsion	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SB 317	Generally revise the Montana Environmental Policy Act	Nay	26-21	Passed
2011	SJR 15	Study resolution on bonding requirement for ag commodities and grain industry	Nay	46-4	Passed
2011	HB 219	Index federal income tax deduction to consumer price index	Yea	28-21	Concurred
2011	HB 273	Generally revise roadway access laws	Yea	41-6	Concurred
2011	HB 536	Repeal registration for sale of grizzly parts	Yea	44-5	Concurred
2011	HB 573	Generally revise health insurance laws for data and analysis generation	Yea	30-19	Concurred
2011	HJR 1	Resolution urging federal legislation removing wolf from Endangered Species list	Yea	43-6	Concurred
2011	SB 389	Revising use and tax of alcohol based ingredients by brewers and distillers	Yea	46-3	Passed
2011	HB 95	Gen revise MT Human Rights Act-Indian preference-subpoenas-attorney fees	Yea	38-12	Concurred
2011	HB 117	Require collection of DNA samples from offenders under interstate compact	Yea	50-0	Concurred

2011	HB 229	Revise laws pertaining to commercial vehicles	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 250	Repeal 46-13-109 to conform with Montana Supreme Court opinion	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 298	Revise GVW laws on trucks	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 324	Revise Montana comprehensive health association	Nay	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 337	Revising definitions related to fish and game violations	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2011	HB 401	Revise definition of rotation area in tow truck act	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2011	HB 422	Allow third party consultants to directly bill mining companies	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2011	HB 432	Allow banks to offer debt cancellation programs-exempting from insurance law	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2011	HB 449	Revise penalties for unlawful introduction of fish	Yea	30-20	Concurred
2011	HB 481	Revise state land laws for regional water systems	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 517	Revise laws regarding weigh scales	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 523	Generally revise the tow truck act	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2011	HB 531	Revise civil liability for multiple defendants	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 559	Generally revise health laws for seasonal establishments	Yea	47-2	Concurred
2011	HB 568	Privatize state-owned cataract dam project	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HJR 17	Resolution supporting Monchy Morgan extended-hour port	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2011	HB 80	Revise unemployment insurance law	Nay	41-8	Concurred
2011	HB 125	Generally revise insurance and securities laws	Yea	44-5	Concurred
2011	HB 178	Verify lawful presence in US before issuing driver's license or ID card	Yea	30-19	Concurred
2011	HB 216	Require DOJ to adopt rules for hardship licenses for certain permitholders	Yea	43-6	Concurred
2011	HB 258	Revise definition of guest ranch	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2011	HB 319	Require contractors to list special fuel users' permit on bids for govt projects	Yea	41-8	Concurred
2011	HB 333	Include bank repossessions and other sales in property reappraisal comparables	Yea	37-13	Concurred
2011	SB 403	Generally revise K-12 school funding	Yea	25-25	Failed

2011	SB 343	Revise Montana aquatic invasive species act	Yea	45-4	Passed
2011	HB 25	Revise law related to medical assistance programs	Nay	40-9	Concurred
2011	HB 142	Require interim committees review of reports and advisory councils for sunset	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	HB 212	Eliminate county classification	Yea	41-8	Concurred
2011	HB 338	Revise the document standards law	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2011	HB 403	Revise cluster development law	Yea	45-4	Concurred
2011	HB 428	Revise business filing with Secretary of State	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2011	HB 467	Allow tax credits to community, tribal, technical, college endowments	Yea	45-4	Concurred
2011	HB 469	Clarify and simplify name of livestock loss reduction and mitigation board	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2011	HB 479	Provide for microbial conversion for enhanced gas recovery	Yea	29-20	Concurred
2011	HB 541	Exempt domestic livestock trailing from FWP regulation and MEPA	Yea	49-0	Concurred
2011	HB 584	Allow use of older license plates on motor vehicles	Nay	34-15	Concurred
2011	SB 295	Revise manner of appraising certain property for tax purposes	Yea	45-5	Passed
2011	SB 328	Require PERS new hires to be in DC plan	Yea	26-24	Passed
2011	SB 402	Provide for spring wolf hunts	Yea	42-8	Passed
2011	SJR 17	Interim study of valuing centrally assessed property for tax purposes	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	HB 43	Clarifying employer's rights related to employee use of medical marijuana	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2011	HB 77	Eliminate the publishing policy committee	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 90	Amend Montana mortgage broker and mortgage lender licensing act	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2011	HB 116	Tighten actuarial controls to improve actuarial funding of Teachers Retirement	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 134	Provide benefit and funding changes to game wardens/peace officers retirement	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 225	Clarify environmental review requirements for snowmobile trail programs	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2011	HB 255	Provide that every March 30 is Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 256	Provide for disposition of remains of military personnel	Yea	50-0	Concurred

2011	HB 315	Revise historic traction boiler inspection and traction license requirements	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2011	HB 336	Revise penalties for waste of game	Nay	33-17	Concurred
2011	HB 352	Revise laws relating to water quality standards and provide alternatives	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2011	HB 528	Revise laws regarding cowboy hall of fame	Nay	31-19	Concurred
2011	HJR 19	Resolution for veteran recognition	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	SB 129	Provide limit to state employee salaries and benefits	Nay	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 253	Eliminate certain individual and corporation tax credits	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 319	Generally revise transportation laws on child safety restraints	Yea	43-6	Passed
2011	SB 322	Referendum to revise venue for lawsuits challenging validity of statute	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 371	Encourage manufacture of ammunition in Montana to ensure availability	Yea	39-9	Passed
2011	SB 372	Lower business equipment tax -- phase more reduction on state economic growth	Yea	31-19	Passed
2011	SB 409	Revise methods to establish rental fees and sale of state land cabin sites	Yea	47-2	Passed
2011	HB 131	Clarify responsibilities for expense recovery rel to orphan hazardous materials	Nay	44-4	Concurred
2011	HB 166	Revise weed control laws	Yea	46-2	Concurred
2011	HB 271	Exception to concealed weapon offense if eligible to obtain permit	Yea	29-19	Concurred
2011	HB 277	Provide for regulation of golf cart operation	Yea	38-10	Concurred
2011	HB 291	Provide refund of utility extension costs when subsequent users connect to line	Yea	43-5	Concurred
2011	HB 342	Revise appeal bonds in civil cases	Yea	28-20	Concurred
2011	HB 538	Providing for sale of bonds at public or private sale	Yea	48-0	Concurred
2011	HB 542	Revise subdivision and platting act	Yea	26-24	Concurred
2011	HB 575	Generally revise annexation laws	Yea	47-1	Concurred
2011	SB 94	Revise waters edge provisions of corporation taxes	Nay	36-14	Passed
2011	SB 348	Revise funding for wolf management	Yea	44-6	Passed
2011	SB 382	Require the Department of Revenue to provide certain information to taxpayer	Yea	50-0	Passed

2011	SB 410	Expend PPL v. MT proceeds on higher producing land to benefit public schools	Yea	36-14	Passed
2011	SB 413	Clarify which days or events may extend tax filing dates	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	HB 12	Revise jurisdiction for misdemeanor DUI/BAC offenses	Nay	36-14	Concurred
2011	HB 30	Provide for health care sharing ministries and exempt from insurance codes	Yea	38-12	Concurred
2011	HB 41	Amend law relating to designation of local government auditor	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 69	Revise jail penalties for DUI court participation	Nay	33-17	Concurred
2011	HB 91	Revise election laws	Yea	42-8	Concurred
2011	HB 102	Revise probationary driver's license provisions for DUI court participation	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2011	HB 107	Authorize collection of interest payments on unpaid coal royalties	Yea	42-8	Concurred
2011	HB 123	Revise county and school district budgeting timelines	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 135	Provide benefit and funding changes to sheriffs retirement system	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 185	Ban synthetic marijuana	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 269	Provide for "blue alert" system regarding violent offenders	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 279	Providing disaster and emergency services to tribal governments	Yea	32-12	Concurred
2011	HB 292	Constitutional referendum amending right to a clean and healthful environment	Nay	26-24	Not Concurred
2011	HB 295	Defining and recording wind energy rights	Yea	41-9	Concurred
2011	HB 297	Extend time frames to preserve historic right of way for state lands	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 310	Clarify initiatives language	Yea	41-9	Concurred
2011	HB 334	Generally revise workers' compensation	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2011	HB 391	Prohibit local initiative from establishing priority of enforcement of state law	Yea	36-14	Concurred
2011	HB 430	Revise laws regarding administration of conservation districts	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 487	Provide life insurance for certain nonspecified discretionary groups	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 498	Clarifying irrigation district voting and petition requirements for bonding	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 522	Extend approval of subdivision application to mutually agreed upon time.	Yea	50-0	Concurred

2011	HB 548	Revising 46-18-203 regarding revocation of a suspended or deferred sentence	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 593	Revising clean air act mercury rules	Yea	48-2	Concurred
2011	HB 594	Require a recycled content in state contracts and highway construction	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2011	SB 358	Generally revise tax increment financing districts	Yea	35-15	Passed
2011	HB 2	General Appropriations Act	Yea	27-23	Concurred
2011	SB 157	Establish hunters against hunger donation program	Yea	46-4	Passed
2011	SB 214	Revise requirements for school levy elections	Yea	35-15	Passed
2011	SB 326	Provide for a veterans home loan program	Yea	38-12	Passed
2011	SB 331	Generally revise surplus lines insurance law	Yea	44-6	Passed
2011	SB 359	Provide jobs for Montana veterans	Yea	34-16	Passed
2011	SB 390	Revise laws related to wildlife population management funding	Yea	42-8	Passed
2011	SB 400	Revise big game licensing laws	Yea	30-20	Passed
2011	SB 406	Central assessment mediation instead of dispute review or tax appeal board	Nay	27-23	Passed
2011	SB 411	Revise administration of tax interest, penalties and delinquencies	Yea	38-12	Passed
2011	SB 412	Revise laws to temporarily exempt tribal fee land in trust land process	Yea	42-8	Passed
2011	SB 414	Provide for control of wolves	Yea	30-20	Passed
2011	SB 417	Designate military affected areas	Yea	43-6	Passed
2011	SB 418	Referendum to prohibit health insurance purchase requirement	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 420	Revise local government audit laws	Yea	45-5	Passed
2011	SB 421	Revise animal welfare laws	Yea	41-9	Passed
2011	SB 424	Implement transfer from Older Montanans trust fund to general fund	Yea	45-5	Passed
2011	SB 426	Referendum for contingent property and income tax reductions based on surplus	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 187	Generally revise public defender laws	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 265	Reduce property taxes on new construction for use of gray water systems	Yea	28-22	Passed
2011	SB 397	Increase authority of commissioner of political practices for noncompliance	Yea	35-15	Passed

2011	SB 415	Generally revising oil and gas lease laws	Yea	31-19	Passed
2011	SB 423	Generally revise laws relating to use of marijuana	Yea	35-15	Passed
2011	SB 429	Revised uniform limited liability company act	Yea	41-9	Passed
2011	HB 66	Clarify agency to which the state records committee is attached	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 100	Require fiscal notes to include business impact	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2011	HB 122	Provide for benefit and funding changes to public employees retirement system	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 152	Revise proof of residency and identity requirements for voting	Nay	27-23	Concurred
2011	HB 167	Criminalize offense involving death to an unborn child	Yea	29-21	Concurred
2011	HB 172	Revise laws related to hunting of grizzly bears	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2011	HB 249	Limit shareholder liability for corporation's acts and debts	Yea	38-12	Concurred
2011	HB 318	Ensure county oversight in movement of publicly-owned wild buffalo or bison	Nay	27-23	Concurred
2011	HB 341	Revise interest payments in civil cases	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 408	Provide for timely filing and resolution of claims in medical liability cases	Yea	29-21	Concurred
2011	HB 421	Expand provider types for adult basic education	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2011	HB 480	Revise laws relating to justice's court	Yea	39-11	Concurred
2011	HB 508	Require payment of partial salary to injured rural firefighter	Yea	37-13	Concurred
2011	HB 525	Revise business and professional licensing laws to provide termination review	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 547	Provide insurance coverage for RN specialists who assist physicians	Yea	41-9	Concurred
2011	HB 566	Revise laws related to hunting license bonus point system	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2011	HB 161	Repeal medical marijuana law	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 180	Revise close of voter registration	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 265	Prohibit insurer from disregarding cost item identified by estimating system	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2011	HB 272	Eliminate ability for FWP to use hunting access fees to acquire fee title lands	Nay	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 330	Require voter registration forms provide option for subsequent absentee ballots	Yea	35-15	Concurred

2011	HB 361	Requiring the issuance of archery-only elk permits at 2007 levels	Yea	19-31	Not Concluded
2011	HB 366	Revise county interim zoning law	Yea	27-23	Concluded
2011	HB 405	Medical malpractice reform	Yea	28-22	Concluded
2011	HB 414	Provide for federal mandate accountability	Yea	34-16	Concluded
2011	HB 416	Provide for confidentiality for medical practices quality assurance	Yea	28-22	Concluded
2011	HB 456	Define scope/ boundaries of human sexuality/reproduced in K-12 public schools	Yea	26-24	Concluded
2011	HB 464	Provide medical liability protection for hard-to-recruit subspecialists	Yea	27-24	Concluded
2011	HB 483	Revise campaign finance regulation of churches	Yea	29-21	Concluded
2011	HB 491	Allow cooperative purchasing from profit/nonprofit educational procurement coops	Yea	50-0	Concluded
2011	HB 530	Allow counties to prepare mail ballots before election day	Yea	32-18	Concluded
2011	HB 535	Revise uniform limited liability partnership act	Yea	50-0	Concluded
2011	HB 543	Revise law on administrative rules adopted by reference	Yea	49-1	Concluded
2011	SJR 21	Study of eminent domain and just compensation for property	Yea	46-1	Passed
2011	SJR 24	Joint resolution to study issue of national popular vote for president	Nay	34-13	Passed
2011	HB 111	Improving tax administration by depositing state agency lodging tax in gen fund	Nay	43-4	Concluded
2011	HB 132	Improve, clarify, and make property tax administration more effective	Yea	47-3	Concluded
2011	HB 133	Provide for court orders, fines, liens for noncompliance with noxious weed laws	Nay	29-18	Concluded
2011	HB 195	Revise driver's license format to include resident address	Yea	38-9	Concluded
2011	HB 206	Constitutional amendment on freedom to choose health care coverage	Yea	28-22	Failed (2/3 majority required)
2011	HB 339	Eliminate limit on sale of Class B-13 youth nonresident big game combo licenses	Nay	46-1	Concluded
2011	HB 460	Revise unit ownership act affecting townhouses	Yea	46-1	Concluded
2011	HB 529	Revise certain document fees for mining claims	Nay	33-14	Concluded
2011	HB 555	Providing for nonduplication of health insurance benefits	Yea	28-22	Concluded
2011	SB 146	Regulate the use of private transfer fee covenants	Yea	47-2	Passed

2011	HB 106	Provide for a 24/7 sobriety project for impaired driving offenders	Nay	41-8	Concurred
2011	SJR 18	Interim study on health care workforce development initiatives	Nay	35-14	Passed
2011	SJR 19	Resolution Encouraging Farm to School Programs	Nay	36-13	Passed
2011	SJR 20	Study resolution on implementation of privatization of Medicaid administration	Nay	28-22	Passed
2011	SJR 22	Interim study resolution on innovation incentives to encourage renewable energy	Yea	37-12	Passed
2011	SJR 25	Joint resolution in support of Japanese affected by earthquake, tsunami	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	HB 196	Provide that Dept. of Commerce assist local gov't with fed land management props	Yea	40-9	Concurred
2011	HB 602	Require interim study of exempt water wells	Yea	48-1	Concurred
2011	SB 54	Establish a hybrid tier in TRS for new hires only	Yea	27-22	Passed
2011	SB 59	Provide for a women's mural in the Capitol Building	Yea	46-3	Passed
2011	SB 108	Revise policy for management of large predators	Yea	42-7	Passed
2011	SB 124	Reorganize and recodify fish and game criminal statutes	Yea	46-3	Passed
2011	SB 135	Clarify use of dogs to track wounded game animals	Yea	38-11	Passed
2011	SB 136	Revise residency requirements for hunting	Yea	46-3	Passed
2011	SB 138	Clarify funding of MUS optional retirement program	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SB 173	Revise nuisance law relating to shooting ranges	Yea	43-6	Passed
2011	SB 201	Require small business impact analyses prior to adoption of administrative rule	Yea	29-20	Passed
2011	SB 212	Clarify FWP authority to manage wild buffalo or bison	Yea	30-19	Passed
2011	SB 234	Revising conditions for municipal garbage service	Yea	45-4	Passed
2011	SB 238	Increase jurisdictional limit for justice , city, and small claims courts	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 241	Revise calculation of physician reimbursement for Medicaid services	Yea	40-9	Passed
2011	SB 255	Establish criteria for FWP commission decisions	Yea	26-23	Passed
2011	SB 279	Allow legislative security personnel w/permit to carry weapon into Capitol	Yea	29-20	Passed
2011	SB 311	Clarify laws relating to term limits	Yea	46-3	Passed

2011	SB 327	Require DNRC to assess each dam owned or controlled for hydroelectric potential	Yea	43-6	Passed
2011	SB 340	Clarifying the enforcement of laws related to fire hazard reduction	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SB 367	Establish nutrient standards variances	Yea	46-3	Passed
2011	SR 7	Confirm appointees to Hardrock Mining Impact Board	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	SR 8	Confirm appointees to Air Pollution Advisory Council	Yea	47-2	Passed
2011	SR 9	Confirm appointee to Board of Environmental Review	Yea	43-6	Passed
2011	SR 10	Confirm appointee to Board of Environmental Review	Yea	42-7	Passed
2011	SR 11	Confirm appointee to Board of Environmental Review	Yea	48-1	Passed
2011	SR 12	Confirm appointee to Board of Environmental Review	Yea	45-4	Passed
2011	SB 1	Amend assessment of rural SIDs and SIDs with parcel increases	Yea	47-2	Passed
2011	SB 15	Create misdemeanor crime of aggravated DUI	Nay	33-16	Passed
2011	SB 42	Authorize warrants to obtain blood or breath test in DUI cases	Yea	40-10	Passed
2011	SB 347	Revise the private property assessment act	Yea	47-2	Passed
2011	HB 3	Supplemental appropriations	Yea	32-18	Concurred
2011	HB 7	Reclamation and development grants	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2011	HB 15	School facility grant program	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2011	HB 230	Transfer board of crime control to corrections	Yea	21-29	Not Concurred
2011	HB 533	Revise state coal leasing laws	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2011	HB 4	Appropriations by budget amendment	Yea	38-12	Concurred
2011	HB 5	Long-range building appropriations	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2011	HB 8	Renewable resource bonds and loans	Yea	38-12	Concurred
2011	HB 83	Create prescription drug registry	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2011	HB 165	Deposit certain trust land and river bed income to guarantee account	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2011	HB 262	Extend requirement for emergency medical service grant program	Yea	37-13	Concurred
2011	HB 411	Authorizing the actual cost of meals for certain wildland firefighters	Nay	37-13	Concurred
2011	HB 551	Revise state employee health insurance program to include high deductible plan	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 587	Provide option for associate water court judge	Yea	48-1	Concurred

2011	HB 619	Generally revise FWP laws to implement HB2	Yea	33-17	Concurred
2011	SJR 23	Interim study on exemption of nonprofits from property taxes	Nay	37-13	Passed
2011	HB 6	Renewable resource grants	Yea	36-14	Concurred
2011	HB 9	Cultural and aesthetic grants	Nay	32-18	Concurred
2011	HB 10	Long-range information technology appropriations	Nay	36-14	Concurred
2011	HB 51	Revise laws related to state building energy conservation programs	Yea	38-12	Concurred
2011	HB 140	Transfer funds from the economic development special revenue account	Yea	27-23	Concurred
2011	HB 159	Restrict authority of FWP to regulate ammo or firearms for hunting	Nay	30-20	Concurred
2011	HB 188	Provide licensure and regulation of real estate appraisal management companies	Yea	36-14	Concurred
2011	HB 209	Revise maintenance laws for FWP land to prioritize funds for WMAs	Yea	30-20	Concurred
2011	HB 283	Allow sex to be considered in certain insurance coverage	Yea	27-23	Concurred
2011	HB 317	Sunset statutory appropriations over certain periods	Yea	30-20	Concurred
2011	HB 351	Treasure state endowment appropriations and transfers to the general fund	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 388	Statutorily require comparison of spending, budgets & various economic indices	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 439	General obligation bonds for state government	Yea	36-14	Concurred
2011	HB 475	Requiring trapper safety course to receive Class C resident trappers license	Nay	19-31	Failed
2011	HB 565	Clarify requirements for providing services to high-risk children	Yea	4-1	Concurred
2011	HB 611	Generally revise use of accounts and funds	Yea	30-20	Concurred
2011	HB 613	Generally revise elements of the budget process to implement House Bill No. 2	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 615	Advance cancer research and treatment	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 621	Revise aquatic invasive species laws and provide appropriation	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	SR 6	Confirm certain Governor's appointees	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SR 21	Confirm Governor's appointee to Coal Board	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SR 22	Confirm Governor's appointee to Coal Board	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SR 27	Confirm Governor's appointees	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	HB 186	Continue allocation to Worksafe Montana thru assessment on work comp insurer	Yea	38-12	Concurred
2011	HB 316	Redistribute certain revenue and income	Yea	28-22	Concurred

2011	HB 363	Provide for use of wolf license money	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2011	HB 372	Clarify preference system laws for nonresident permits and licenses	Yea	40-10	Concurred
2011	HB 492	Prohibit immigration sanctuary policies by local governments	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 494	Revise laws relating to subdivision exemptions	Yea	25-25	Failed
2011	HB 560	Increase public involvement in urban renewal areas	Yea	36-14	Concurred
2011	HB 561	Revise criteria for factors in urban renewal districts	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2011	HB 562	Require notification of county and schools of urban renewal district	Yea	47-3	Concurred
2011	HB 577	Revise taxes by removing tip income for workers' compensation purposes	Nay	26-24	Concurred
2011	HB 607	Clarifying procedure for sale of B10 nonresident big game combo licenses	Yea	41-9	Concurred
2011	HB 641	Review tax expenditures	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	SJR 26	Study resolution for interim monitoring activities recommended by Joint Subcomm	Yea	36-14	Passed
2011	SJR 27	Interim study of waiver services for children with developmental disabilities	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	SR 16	Confirm certain Governor's appointees	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SR 24	Confirm certain Governor's appointees	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SR 30	Confirm district court judge appointee	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	HB 296	Authorize the construction of the Southwest Montana Veterans' Home in Butte	Yea	37-13	Concurred
2011	HB 306	Eliminate requirement for notary public to keep and maintain a journal	Yea	30-20	Concurred
2011	HB 358	Revise Montana medical savings account contribution limits	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2011	HB 370	Increase motor vehicle fee for state parks and Virginia & Nevada Cities	Yea	29-21	Concurred
2011	HB 375	Reduce certain general fund transfers	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 377	Revise laws to allow medication aides in nursing homes	Yea	43-7	Concurred
2011	HB 444	Create budget database website for taxpayer right to know	Yea	30-20	Concurred
2011	HB 458	Revise laws related to outfitting and net client hunter use	Yea	42-8	Concurred
2011	HB 475	Requiring trapper safety course to receive Class C resident trappers license	Nay	24-26	Failed
2011	HB 477	Revise lodging facility use tax allocation to Montana historical society	Yea	42-8	Concurred
2011	HB 495	Revise statutory appropriations and local government entitlement share payments	Yea	28-22	Concurred

2011	HB 518	Create a mental health care advance directive	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 574	Constitutional referendum to specify no right to abortion or its public funding	Yea	30-20	Failed (2/3 required)
2011	HB 585	Require public disclosure of contracts with outside counsel for state agencies	Yea	29-21	Concurred
2011	HB 604	Provide for fund transfers to various accounts	Yea	27-23	Concurred
2011	HB 609	Referendum on freedom to choose health insurance coverage	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 612	Generally revise state health care laws to implement House Bill No. 2	Yea	31-19	Concurred
2011	HB 616	Correct erroneous agriculture land values, provide remedy, create ag. committee	Yea	39-11	Concurred
2011	HB 618	Exempt certain tribally owned property from taxation	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	HB 622	Revising funding for livestock mitigation and control of predatory animals	Yea	45-5	Concurred
2011	HB 638	Referendum to require proof of citizenship to receive state service	Yea	26-24	Concurred
2011	HB 642	Create select committee on efficiency in government--members--duties	Yea	44-6	Concurred
2011	SR 25	Confirming Governor's Appts	Nay	27-23	Passed
2011	SR 26	Confirm certain Governor's appointments	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SR 29	Confirming Governor's Appts	Yea	49-1	Passed
2011	HB 29	Expand criteria for extraordinary event exceptions to uses of credit information	Yea	49-1	Concurred
2011	HB 43	Clarifying employer's rights related to employee use of medical marijuana	Yea	34-16	Concurred
2011	HB 409	Clarify laws relating to provider rates commission	Yea	46-4	Concurred
2011	HB 445	Allow health care choice thru out-of-state policies	Nay	26-24	Concurred
2011	HB 633	Revise healthy Montana kids program	Yea	26-24	Concurred
2011	HB 153	Allow deductions of health care sharing ministry expenses	Yea	50-0	Concurred
2011	SB 221	Provide waiver for accountable care organizations in HMO laws	Yea	50-0	Passed
2011	SJR 28	Interim study resolution on performance-based funding for education	Yea	30-20	Passed
2011	SJR 29	Request interim study of restorative justice	Nay	45-5	Passed
2011	SJR 30	Interim study of ways to reduce childhood trauma	Nay	43-7	Passed
2011	HB 211	Revise laws relating to municipal general obligation bonds	Nay	15-35	Failed
2011	SR 20	Confirm Governor's appointee to Transportation Commission	Yea	49-0	Passed

2011	SR 23	Confirm Governor's appointees to Board of Oil and Gas	Yea	49-0	Passed
2011	HB 198	Generally revise eminent domain laws	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HB 526	Create interstate health care compact	Yea	29-21	Concurred
2011	HJR 8	Interim study on reducing childhood hunger in Montana	Yea	37-13	Concurred
2011	SB 126	Revise fees & licensing for plant nurseries & vendors; revise D of Ag inspection	Nay	38-12	Passed
2011	HB 627	Referendum to revise parental notice of abortion and judicial bypass	Yea	28-22	Concurred
2011	HJR 13	Interim study on income tax	Nay	43-7	Concurred
2011	SR 14	Confirm appointment to the Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission	Nay	24-26	Passed
2011	SR 15	Confirm appointment to the Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission	Yea	44-6	Passed
2011	SR 18	Confirm appointee to State Compensation Insurance Fund Board	Yea	33-17	Passed
2011	HJR 38	Interim study of local fire protection, firefighters, and EMTs	Yea	27-23	Concurred
2011	HJR 39	Interim study of subdivision rent or lease exemption	Nay	37-13	Concurred
2011	SB 166	Revise income tax filing extension law	Yea	48-2	Passed
2011	HB 174	Repeal prohibition on firearm sound reduction devices in field	Yea	27-23	Concurred
2011	HJR 33	Interim study on state health insurance exchange	Yea	26-24	Concurred
2011	SB 143	Revise state grizzly bear policy	Yea	45-4	Passed
2011	SB 156	Revise tribal use of TANF maintenance of effort funds	Yea	49-0	Passed

## MEDIA APPEARANCES

*NOTE: This section contains media appearances listed out in the 2014 DCCC Research book. In the new research, media appearances appear by issue in the relevant sections.*

### Radio Appearances with Audio Available Online

Below is a list of radio appearances of Ryan Zinke where audio is available. By clicking on the date, it is possible to listen to audio that has been found on the internet.

“Trust, Leadership and American Exceptionalism with Commander Z” [13](#)

- Zinke’s internet radio show, 11 shows

Radio appearance on NPR’s Morning Edition, [5/12/11](#)

- Discussed SEAL Team Six and bin Laden

Radio appearance on NPR’s Morning Edition, [8/09/11](#)

- Discussed the loss of SEAL Team 6 members
- Strain on SEAL Team 6, difficult to rebuild

Radio appearance on NPR’s All Things Considered, [5/03/11](#)

- Talked about training and walked through mission

Radio appearance on NPR’s All Things Considered, [1/23/13](#)

- Algerian hostage crisis at the seized gas plant

Radio appearance on KMMS 1450, [5/06/14](#).

- Joined by his wife and author Scott McEwen.

Radio appearance on KMMS 1450, [3/27/12](#).

- Discussed campaign with Neil Livingstone. (part 1 start at 7:12) (very end of pt. 2, I’ve always said the government stops at the mailbox) (part 3, start at 8:20, says he was a commander at SEAL team 6, not of SEAL team 6)

Ryan Zinke on NBC Montana

[5/09/14](#)

### Radio Appearances with No Available Audio

Below is a list of radio appearances of Ryan Zinke that he has advertised on his Twitter, Facebook, or from SOFA, but where no audio recording has been located.

Radio appearance on Wilkow Majority, Sirius XM

- Channel 125
- 9/25/13

Radio appearance on Jerry Doyle Show

- 7/31/12
- <http://www.soforamerica.org/2012/08/13/senator-ryan-zinkes-interview-on-the-jerry-doyle-show/>

Radio appearance on Twang 105 with Rockin' Rob

- Billings
- 1/30/14, 5pm
- <http://ow.ly/i/4rJWM>

Radio appearance on NewsTalk 95.5 with Livin' Large Larry

- Billings
- 1/31/14, 8am
- <http://ow.ly/i/4rIzk>

Radio appearance on AM 1450 KMMS with Chris Griffin

- Bozeman, MT
- 2/05/14, 8:30AM
- <http://ow.ly/i/4uP3T>

Radio appearance on KBBZ 98.5 FM with Benny and Rob

- Kalispell
- (February 19?)
- <https://twitter.com/RyanZinke/status/436184045446127616>

Radio appearance on Politics Montana with Rick Tyron, 102.7 KINX

- Great Falls
- 4/30/14, 10am
- <http://ow.ly/i/5pyc3>

Radio appearance on MOJO 92.5 with Kurt Anthony

- Billings
- 12/13/13, 7:30AM
- <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=475666359220575&set=a.446672315453313.1073741829.437061983081013&type=1>

Radio appearance with the Mighty Mo on 107.3

- Helena and Great Falls
- 1/28/14, 8am
- <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=499575960162948&set=pb.437061983081013.-2207520000.1400080756.&type=3&theater>

## TV Appearances

Below is a list of TV appearances made by Zinke.

CNN, Piers Morgan Tonight, 5/03/11

- Discussed bin-Laden Raid

Fox News Network, 5/05/11

- Discussed bin-Laden Raid

CNN Newsroom 5/06/11

- Discussed bin-Laden Raid

CNN Presents 5/14/11

- Discussed bin-Laden Raid

CNN, the Situation Room, 8/09/11

- Discussed loss of SEALs

CNN Newsroom, 8/11/11

- Discussed loss of SEALs

CNN Newsroom, 12/10/12

- Discussed mission to rescue American doctor

Fox News, Fox and Friends [7/23/12](#)

- On the founding of the SOFA

Lou Dobbs tonight, 7/25/12

- On the founding of the SOFA

Fox News Appearance on the Hannity Show, [7/26/12](#)

- Special guest claiming that the president's policies are hurting the military

KPAX Video, [14](#)

- Candidate profile
- Missoula, MT Station

CNN Newsroom, 4/21/14

- Spoke about tactics to find people on a rescue mission similar to the South Korean ferry disaster

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- ✓ Zinke raised nearly \$7.5 million and spent over \$6.6 million in his federal campaigns and through his leadership PAC, SEAL PAC.
- ✓ 86% of Zinke’s federal contributions are from individuals, with 10% from PACs, 1% self-funded, and 4% labeled as “other.”
- ✓ In 2014, Zinke outraised his opponent by over \$3 million.
- ✓ Zinke’s top industry of federal contributors (in order) are: retired (\$666,993), republican/conservative (\$334,938), real estate (\$303,273), oil & gas (\$266,451), securities & investments (\$173,800), and lawyers/law firms (\$173,666).
- ✓ Zinke’s top sectors of federal contributors (in order) are: Other (\$712,197); Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (\$633,068); Ideological/Single-Issue (\$601,288); and Energy & Natural Resources (\$369,291).
- ✓ Zinke’s top federal contributors (in order) are: Fidelity National Financial (\$145,723); Oasis Petroleum (\$27,600); Fidelity National Information Services (\$24,300); Chicago Title Insurance (\$20,400); and Halliburton Co (\$20,400).
- ✓ 46.8% of Zinke’s lifetime contributions have come from outside Montana, or \$2.4 million. Zinke’s top federal contributors by metro area (in order) are: Billings, Houston, Dallas, Jacksonville, Los Angeles-Long Beach, New York, San Francisco, Missoula, Washington (DC), Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc.

### Zinke’s Career Federal Fundraising (Including SEAL PAC)

#### Career Fundraising

2013 - 2016 Total Receipts:	\$7,472,805
2013 - 2016 Total Spent:	\$6,686,821
Debts:	\$33,421
Last Report:	Thursday, December 31, 2015

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 3/12/16]

## Zinke's Federal Contributions by Source

### Source of Funds

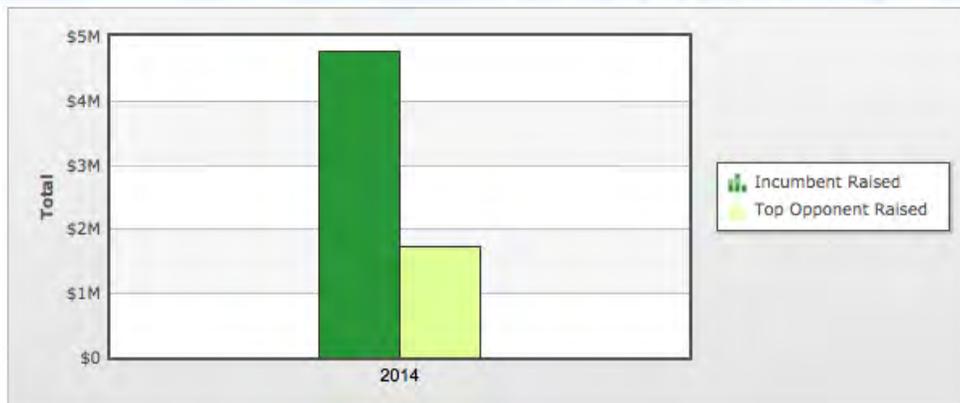


■	Individual Contributions	\$6,414,925	(86%)
■	PAC Contributions	\$723,112	(10%)
■	Candidate self-financing	\$42,000	(1%)
■	Other	\$292,768	(4%)

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 3/12/16]

## Zinke's 2014 Campaign Total Fundraising Comparison

Cycle	Race	Top vote-getting candidates	Raised	Spent	Election Results
2014	MT01 	Ryan K. Zinke John Lewis	\$4,748,870 \$1,721,571	\$4,665,054 \$1,703,086	Open Seat



[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 3/12/16]

## Zinke's Top Federal Contributors by Industry

CAREER PROFILE (SINCE 1989)

### Top Industries

Representative Ryan K Zinke

Campaign Finance Cycle:

Industry	Total
Retired	\$668,993
Republican/Conservative	\$334,938
Real Estate	\$303,273
Oil & Gas	\$266,451
Securities & Investment	\$173,800
Lawyers/Law Firms	\$173,666
Leadership PACs	\$158,550
Livestock	\$97,735
General Contractors	\$82,900
Electronics Mfg & Equip	\$79,200
Automotive	\$61,650
Crop Production & Basic Processing	\$57,990
Misc Manufacturing & Distributing	\$57,063
Health Professionals	\$54,225
Misc Business	\$53,470
Misc Finance	\$48,500
Business Services	\$43,700
Commercial Banks	\$42,720
Misc Energy	\$37,790
Insurance	\$37,725

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 3/12/16]

## Zinke's Top Federal Contributors by Sector

### Sector Totals

Sector	Total	PACs	Indivs
Agribusiness	\$194,337	\$42,500	\$151,837
Communications/Electronics	\$129,341	\$17,500	\$111,841
Construction	\$133,900	\$41,000	\$92,900
Defense	\$52,078	\$48,500	\$3,578
Energy & Natural Resources	\$369,291	\$118,400	\$250,891
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$633,068	\$64,923	\$568,145
Health	\$71,120	\$9,500	\$61,620
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$192,466	\$17,400	\$175,066
Transportation	\$128,701	\$64,500	\$64,201
Misc Business	\$289,168	\$44,498	\$244,670
Labor	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$0
Ideological/Single-Issue	\$601,288	\$248,240	\$353,048
Other	\$712,197	\$1,000	\$711,197

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 3/12/16]

## Zinke's Top Federal PAC Contributions

### PAC Contribution Breakdown



■	Business	\$468,721	(64%)
■	Labor	\$10,500	(1%)
■	Ideological/Single Issue	\$248,240	(34%)

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 3/12/16]

## Zinke's Top Federal Contributors

CAREER PROFILE (SINCE 1989)

### Top Contributors

Representative Ryan K Zinke

Campaign Finance Cycle:

Contributor	Total	Indivs	PACs
Fidelity National Financial	\$145,723	\$131,300	\$14,423
Oasis Petroleum	\$27,600	\$27,600	\$0
Fidelity National Information Services	\$24,300	\$24,300	\$0
Chicago Title Insurance	\$20,400	\$20,400	\$0
Halliburton Co	\$20,400	\$10,400	\$10,000
Cinemark USA	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
BNSF Railway	\$17,700	\$3,700	\$14,000
Honeywell International	\$16,498	\$0	\$16,498
Langlas & Assoc	\$15,950	\$15,950	\$0
Levine, Kellogg et al	\$15,750	\$15,750	\$0
Freedom Project	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
Ballard Petroleum	\$14,400	\$14,400	\$0
TPG Capital	\$12,900	\$12,900	\$0
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$11,600	\$11,600	\$0
Kootenai Resource Group	\$10,850	\$10,850	\$0
Renaissance Technologies	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$0
Wynn Resorts	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$0
Charles Schwab & Co	\$10,600	\$10,600	\$0
Insight Equity	\$10,600	\$10,600	\$0
Cloud Peak Energy Resources	\$10,500	\$0	\$10,500

This table lists the top donors to this candidate in 2013-2016. **The organizations themselves did not donate**, rather the money came from the organizations' PACs, their individual members or employees or owners, and those individuals' immediate families. Organization totals include subsidiaries and affiliates.

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 3/12/16]

## Zinke's Top Federal Contributors by Location

### Top Metro Areas

BILLINGS	\$296,939
HOUSTON	\$185,300
DALLAS	\$167,260
JACKSONVILLE	\$144,700
LOS ANGELES-LONG BEACH	\$99,059
NEW YORK	\$99,018
SAN FRANCISCO	\$87,636
MISSOULA	\$78,085
WASHINGTON, DC-MD-VA-WV	\$75,191
SANTA BARBARA-SANTA MARIA-LOMPOC	\$59,275

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 3/12/16]

## Zinke's Top Federal Contributors by Zip Code

### Top Zip Codes

59937 (WHITEFISH, MT)	\$133,200
59102 (Billings, MT)	\$107,800
59106 (Billings, MT)	\$100,765
59715 (BOZEMAN, MT)	\$87,464
77024 (Houston, TX)	\$58,600
32082 (Ponte Vedra Beach, FL)	\$35,450
59911 (BIGFORK, MT)	\$33,091
59718 (BOZEMAN, MT)	\$29,380
59103 (Billings, MT)	\$29,349
59101 (Billings, MT)	\$23,750
59601 (HELENA, MT)	\$23,600
75205 (Dallas, TX)	\$23,100
59405 (Great Falls, MT)	\$22,495
59860 (POLSON, MT)	\$20,145
75251 (Dallas, TX)	\$20,000
77057 (Houston, TX)	\$19,850
59474 (SHELBY, MT)	\$18,400
59901 (Kalispell, MT)	\$17,535
75201 (Dallas, TX)	\$17,500
10065 (NEW YORK, NY)	\$16,900

[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 3/12/16]

**Zinke's Lifetime Out of State Contributions: 46.58% – Federal & State\***

<i>CATEGORY</i>	<i>LIFETIME TO Q3 2015*</i>	<i>Q4 2015 *</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>LIFETIME</i>
Out of State	\$2,185,709.30	\$269,689.15	46.58%	\$2,455,398.45
<b>ALL CONTRIBUITION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,929,104.97</b>	<b>\$341,950.15</b>		<b>\$5,271,055.12</b>

[FEC, accessed 3/12/16; Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 3/12/16, last updated 11/2015]

**Zinke's Contributions – Federal & State\***

<i>CATEGORY</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>LIFETIME TO Q3 2015*</i>
Out of State	44%	\$2,185,709.30
Agriculture	1.50%	\$74,369.00
Defense	0.16%	\$8,042.24
Energy & Natural Resources	3.68%	\$181,380.00
Mining	0.26%	\$12,950.00
Coal Mining	0.17%	\$8,320.00
Oil & Gas	2.65%	\$130,660.00
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.34%	\$361,940.65
Banks & Lending Institutions	0.24%	\$11,880.00
Commercial Banks	0.67%	\$34,970.00
Ideology & Single Issue	0.67%	\$33,130.00
Labor	0.00%	\$100
Lawyers & Lobbyists	2.03%	\$100,081.00
Gambling & Casinos	0.13%	\$6,230.00
<b>ALL CONTRIBUITION TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,929,104.97</b>

[Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 3/12/16, last updated 11/2015]

\*NOTE: The Institute on Money in State Politics at the time of this report they did not include the Q4 of 2015 report for Zinke's campaign. Also note, the contributions include contributions to Zinke's joint fundraising committee in his 2012 bid for Lieutenant Governor.

**Zinke's Only Federal Contribution Was to the MT GOP in 2009**

<i>COMMITTEE</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
MONTANA REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE	6/09/09	\$230.00

[FEC, accessed 3/12/16]

**Zinke Gave \$77,585.68 in Non-Federal Contributions, Only \$2,095 for Other Candidates/Committees**

<i>CANDIDATE/COMMITTEE</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>	<i>DATE</i>
LIVINGSTONE, NEIL C & ZINKE, RYAN	\$20,000.00	4/25/12
LIVINGSTONE, NEIL C & ZINKE, RYAN	\$20,000.00	4/17/12
ZINKE, RYAN K	\$10,000.00	10/3/08
LIVINGSTONE, NEIL C & ZINKE, RYAN	\$5,000.00	3/12/12

LIVINGSTONE, NEIL C & ZINKE, RYAN	\$5,000.00	3/30/12
LIVINGSTONE, NEIL C & ZINKE, RYAN	\$5,000.00	5/3/12
LIVINGSTONE, NEIL C & ZINKE, RYAN	\$5,000.00	4/30/12
ZINKE, RYAN K	\$2,284.90	5/21/08
ZINKE, RYAN K	\$1,700.00	
ZINKE, RYAN K	\$1,000.00	
ZINKE, RYAN K	\$255.00	5/6/08
MONTANA REPUBLICAN PARTY	\$230.00	6/9/09
ZINKE, RYAN K	\$205.18	4/30/08
MONTANA REPUBLICAN PARTY	\$200.00	11/26/10
JOHNSON, BRAD	\$170.00	4/16/14
BUTTREY, FRANCIS EDWARD	\$170.00	
JOHNSON, BRAD	\$170.00	6/19/14
MONTANA REPUBLICAN PARTY	\$150.00	1/8/08
MONTANA REPUBLICAN PARTY	\$150.00	5/1/08
DOOLING, JOE	\$120.00	
MONTANA REPUBLICAN PARTY	\$100.00	3/25/09
JONES, LLEWELYN E	\$100.00	10/3/13
ZOLNIKOV, DANIEL	\$100.00	
HOVEN, BRIAN E	\$100.00	11/1/13
MORTENSEN, DALE	\$100.00	
PACE, DAMON	\$75.00	
ZOLNIKOV, DANIEL	\$70.00	
HAGAN, ROGER A	\$50.00	
ZINKE, RYAN K	\$45.60	4/14/08
MONTANA REPUBLICAN PARTY	\$40.00	12/14/10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,585.68</b>	

[Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 3/12/16, last updated 11/2015]

### Zinke Accepted Money From “What A Country!” PAC That Supported Republicans Who Were Open To Overhauling The Immigration System.

“Donald Trump’s surge in the GOP presidential polls came as he referred to Mexicans coming to the United States as ‘rapists.’ Some conservatives couched Eric Cantor’s shocking primary loss in Virginia last year to Dave Brat as a referendum on the-then House majority leader’s push for comprehensive immigration legislation. Yet Curbelo is testing the waters for an immigration overhaul by spreading campaign cash from his leadership PAC. The ‘What a Country!’ PAC launched in January to support Republicans who are open to overhauling the system. [...] In the PAC’s first six months, Curbelo says, more than \$80,000 has been raised, and \$1,000 each has been dispersed to 27 House Republicans. Lawmakers who have received funds appear to have varied stances on immigration. They include Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, who helped lead an unsuccessful attempt to rewrite immigration laws in the House last year, and freshmen such as Rep. Ryan Zinke

of Montana and Rep. Steve Knight of California, who voted to defund President Barack Obama's executive action granting temporary deportation relief to those who entered the country illegally before age 16." [CQ, Accessed [10/2/15](#)]

### **Zinke Hired Two Professional Fundraising Firms To Help Him Shore Up Campaign Cash For The 2016 Election**

"Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau is considering challenging U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke for Montana's U.S. House seat next year, a spokeswoman for the Democrat said Wednesday. [...] Zinke has hired two professional fundraising firms to help him shore up campaign cash for next year's elections. As of Sept. 30, his campaign had more than \$747,000 in the bank." [AP, [10/22/15](#)]

### **OIL, GAS AND COAL COMPANIES DONATED AT LEAST \$43,000 TO ZINKE'S CAMPAIGN**

#### **Headline: Montana Standard: "Standard View: Zinke's Sweetheart Deal For Coal Companies."**

[Montana Standard, Editorial, [7/12/15](#)]

#### **The Daily Take Team Op-Ed: According To Open Secrets Oil, Gas And Coal Companies Donated At Least \$43,000 To Zinke's Campaign, That's More Than 10 Percent Of Ryan Zinke's Total Contributions From Political Action Committees.**

"Ever wonder what the best investment you can make is? I'm not in the business of giving financial advice - but I wanted to share with you this secret that every billionaire and large corporation in this country knows. The best investment you can make isn't gold or some revolutionary technology. The best investment you can make is to buy a politician! [...] Well, according to [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org), oil, gas and coal companies donated at least \$43,000 to Zinke's campaign. That's more than 10 percent of Ryan Zinke's total contributions from Political Action Committees." [Truthout, Daily Take Team Op-ed, [7/1/15](#)]

#### **Billings Gazette: "In A Quiet Procedural Move, Montana U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke Has Tried To Keep A Loophole Open That Will Rob Montanans (And All Citizens) Of Money That's Rightfully Theirs."**

"In a quiet procedural move, Montana U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke has tried to keep a loophole open that will rob Montanans (and all citizens) of money that's rightfully theirs. The issue is how coal royalties are paid. That's money coal companies owe the government for extracting coal on federal land--land owned by all of us. Currently, a loophole allows large coal companies to mine coal and then sell it to their own subsidiaries at a lesser rate, creating a tax loophole that saves them millions." [Billings Gazette, Editorial, 7/6/15]

#### **Billings Gazette: "Zinke's Budget Rider, A Type Of Amendment Usually Put In Quietly, Would Solidify This Gap Between The Royalties Big Coal Companies Pay And A Fair Market Value."**

"Zinke's budget rider, a type of amendment usually put in quietly, would solidify this gap between the royalties big coal companies pay and a fair market value. It's a bonus check codified by law that will ensure companies continue to game the tax system, and leave the taxpayers shortchanged. We can almost hear Zinke and his fellow coal buddies now: The coal industry needs the help; it's besieged by environmentalists and competition from other sources. Without generous tax breaks, coal will shut down." [Billings Gazette, Editorial, 7/6/15]

#### **Billings Gazette: "Citizens Should Not Have The Value Of Their Land Shortchanged Just Because It's Hard Times For Coal."**

"However, citizens should not have the value of their land shortchanged just because it's hard times for coal. The coal these companies get will never be part of the land again. It is a finite, valuable resource, even if its value is slumping today. We hope the rest of Congress sees this for what it is: A shameless break for big companies who've created a way to pay less for resources we all have ownership of. These types of loopholes represent the worst of what Washington has to offer, appearing to give big breaks to big companies--all at our expense. In fact, we pay for it twice. Taxpayers are shortchanged once when coal is undervalued and again

when some of the funds that should go to fund the federal government have to be found in other places, like taxes. Either that or programs have to be reduced.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, 7/6/15]

**Billings Gazette: “Requests For Interviews On This Subject By The Billing Gazette Were Declined By Zinke, Who Couldn’t Find Time To Talk About The Issue.”**

“Requests for interviews on this subject by The Billing Gazette were declined by Zinke, who couldn’t find time to talk about the issue. Then again, maybe the legislation speaks for itself: Maybe it really is about giving breaks to his buddies. According to the most recent campaign reports, oil and gas industries contributed more than \$185,000 to Zinke during the 2013-14 election cycle. Energy and natural resource political action committees chipped in more than \$50,000, according to Opensecrets.org. Given the quiet nature of the budget rider, the lack of comment and the strong support Zinke has received from the well-heeled energy community, it looks like coal is getting a good return on its Zinke investment. Unfortunately, it appears that the rest of us have gotten the shaft.” [Billings Gazette, Editorial, 7/6/15]

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**Billings Gazette: Zinke Introduced Amendment To Block Plans To Increase Royalties That Companies Pay For Coal, Oil And Gas Taken From Public Lands Because He Was Concerned The DOI Proposal Would Discourage Future Coal Mining**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., is attempting to block federal government plans to increase royalties that companies pay for coal, oil and gas taken from public lands. Zinke, citing concerns about the coal economy and prosperity on Montana’s Crow Indian Reservation, proposed blocking funding to the U.S. Department of Interior, the agency charged with making sure the public receives a fair price for its coal. Interior has been working on a possible increase in royalties collected. Zinke’s proposal, introduced Tuesday night as an amendment to the Department of Interior budget, would prohibit DOI from continuing to spend money on its royalty work. His concern with DOI’s proposal is that it will discourage future coal mining. ‘In my home state of Montana, the Crow Nation suffers from unemployment rates as high as 50 percent — despite having over a billion dollars in coal reserves,’ Zinke said on the House floor. ‘Similar situations play out in communities

across America. This administration has waged a war against coal. In the words of Crow Chairman Old Coyote, ‘A war on coal is a war on the Crow people.’ [Billings Gazette, [7/8/15](#)]

**Zinke: “In My Home State Of Montana, The Crow Nation Suffers From Unemployment Rates As High As 50 Percent — Despite Having Over A Billion Dollars In Coal Reserves.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., is attempting to block federal government plans to increase royalties that companies pay for coal, oil and gas taken from public lands. Zinke, citing concerns about the coal economy and prosperity on Montana’s Crow Indian Reservation, proposed blocking funding to the U.S. Department of Interior, the agency charged with making sure the public receives a fair price for its coal. Interior has been working on a possible increase in royalties collected. Zinke’s proposal, introduced Tuesday night as an amendment to the Department of Interior budget, would prohibit DOI from continuing to spend money on its royalty work. His concern with DOI’s proposal is that it will discourage future coal mining. ‘In my home state of Montana, the Crow Nation suffers from unemployment rates as high as 50 percent — despite having over a billion dollars in coal reserves,’ Zinke said on the House floor. ‘Similar situations play out in communities across America. This administration has waged a war against coal. In the words of Crow Chairman Old Coyote, ‘A war on coal is a war on the Crow people.’ [Billings Gazette, [7/8/15](#)]

**Billings Gazette: Zinke Was Concerned About DOI Plan To Set The Coal Royalty Amount By Default If One Can’t Easily Be Determined Because It Would Be Too Arbitrary And Costly**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., is attempting to block federal government plans to increase royalties that companies pay for coal, oil and gas taken from public lands. [...] Coal companies counter that coal prices are higher at port, because of the costs associated with delivering the coal from the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana. A royalty based on that sales price would be a tax on the coal subsidiary’s transportation costs, as well. Interior officials would like to set the royalty amount by default if one can’t easily be determined. That proposal worries coal companies, and Zinke. Both say the default amounts will be too arbitrary and costly.” [Billings Gazette, [7/8/15](#)]

**Interior Department Announced There Will Be A Public Meeting On Zinke’s Amendment To Block An Interior Department Proposal To Overhaul Coal Royalty Payments In Billings, On August 11**

“Federal officials on Thursday announced a series of public meetings this summer on the U.S. government’s coal program, following criticism that corporations have profited off publicly-owned reserves of the fuel at the expense of taxpayers. The Interior Department’s solicitation for the public to weigh in comes as coal companies and their allies in Congress have tried to thwart the Obama administration’s initial attempts to change longstanding industry practices. That includes recent legislation from Montana U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke that would block an Interior Department proposal to overhaul coal royalty payments. Under rules in place since the 1980s, companies can sell coal to affiliates and pay royalties to the government on that price, then turn around and sell the coal for more overseas. [...]The public meetings are planned for July 29 in Washington, D.C.; Aug. 11 in Billings, Montana.” [AP, [7/9/15](#)]

**Montana Standard: “Extractive Industry Ruled Montana Politics – Indeed, Owned Montana Politicians (And Newspapers) For Many Years. [...] And They Deserve Straight Talk When Their Leaders Take Actions That Appear To Favor Big-Money Donors Over Taxpayers.”**

“Elsewhere on this page is an op-ed article from U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont. After refusing interview requests to discuss his move to block a federal rule aimed at stopping coal companies from avoiding equitable royalties paid to local governments on the ore they extract, he has offered the piece to justify his action. [...] Extractive industry ruled Montana politics – indeed, owned Montana politicians (and newspapers) for many years. Montanans deserve to know that’s no longer the case. And they deserve straight talk when their leaders take actions that appear to favor big-money donors over taxpayers.” [Montana Standard, Editorial, [7/12/15](#)]

**Headline: Montana Standard: “Standard View: Zinke’s Sweetheart Deal For Coal Companies.”**  
[Montana Standard, Editorial, [7/12/15](#)]

**Bucks And Alexander: “Zinke’s Amendment Allows Federal Coal To Be Intentionally Undervalued. That Is A Bad Idea That Hurts Both Montanans And The Federal Treasury.”**

In July 2015, Dan Bucks, director of Montana’s Department of Revenue from 2005 to 2013 and Ryan Alexander, president of Taxpayers for Common Sense wrote: “Coal in Montana is an asset. [...] This is why U.S. Rep. Zinke’s efforts are so confusing. Zinke is trying to slip a provision into an appropriations bill to block Interior from updating these antiquated federal rules. In doing so, he would prevent citizens of Montana and the nation from receiving a fair return on the coal they own. This is even more troublesome given the number of studies and audits of the federal coal program that have found consistent problems of the public getting shortchanged by the federal coal royalty program. Being fiscally responsible means valuing taxpayer-owned resources fairly, and the nation’s minerals and other natural resources are some of our greatest public assets. By stopping updated rules that will help ensure coal companies pay taxpayers the money they owe, Zinke’s amendment allows federal coal to be intentionally undervalued. That is a bad idea that hurts both Montanans and the federal treasury.” [Missoulian, Dan Bucks and Ryan Alexander Opinion, [7/10/15](#)]

**Zinke Said An Administration Rule To Change How Coal Mined From Public Land Was Valued Would Lead To Unpredictable And Unstable Market Conditions And Lost Jobs**

“Critics say that for decades the coal industry has gamed the system to underpay its fair share of federal coal royalties. They say those alleged schemes have padded the bottom lines of coal companies while short-changing state and local governments of tens of millions of dollars. The federal government is now considering a rule to change how coal mined from public land is valued. The first hearing on the proposal will be held this week. [...] Montana’s Republican Congressman Ryan Zinke also opposes the Interior Department’s proposal. He predicts it will lead to unpredictable and unstable market conditions and lost jobs.” [Montana Public Radio, [7/28/15](#)]

**Zinke Said The DOI Rule That Would Change The Way Coal Was Valued When Mined From Public Lands Would Result In “Increased Uncertainty” For The Coal Industry**

In July 2015, Zinke wrote: “On Wednesday, I introduced legislation that would stop the Department of the Interior from enacting another cumbersome rule that would change the way coal is valued when mined from public land. The end result would be increased uncertainty for an industry that is constantly battling this administration’s war on fossil fuels. There has been a lot of misinformation about this issue and I wanted to set the record straight because Montana coal workers and the Crow deserve a fighting chance.” [Great Falls Tribune, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [7/10/15](#)]

**Zinke: “There Has Been A Lot Of Misinformation About This Issue And I Wanted To Set The Record Straight Because Montana Coal Workers And The Crow Deserve A Fighting Chance.”**

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**Zinke: “By Blocking This New Rule From Going Into Effect, The Amendment Will Prevent Uncertainty From Taking Over The Market, Which Would Lead To Fewer Jobs And Less Revenue For Local Governments Who Collect Royalties.”**

In July 2015, Zinke wrote: “Currently coal is valued (for royalty purposes) when it’s sold; however, the new rule would value it based on when it’s turned into electricity. This could not only cause long gaps but also create huge levels of uncertainty because utility rates fluctuate so much. This may seem like a small change in the process, but it would have huge repercussions in Montana, especially counties supported by mines like Big Horn, Yellowstone and Musselshell, as well as the Crow Nation. By blocking this new rule from going into effect, the amendment will prevent uncertainty from taking over the market, which would lead to fewer jobs and

less revenue for local governments who collect royalties.” [Great Falls Tribune, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [7/10/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Opponents Who Don’t Understand The Issue Argue This Is A Tax Break For Coal Companies And That It Would Reduce Revenues For Local Governments. This Could Not Be Farther From The Truth.”**

In July 2015, Zinke wrote: “Opponents who don’t understand the issue argue this is a tax break for coal companies and that it would reduce revenues for local governments. This could not be farther from the truth. In fact, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office determined the rule to be deficit neutral. And a group of bipartisan local governments and stakeholders oppose the change because it would kill jobs and put royalty and tax revenues in jeopardy.” [Great Falls Tribune, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [7/10/15](#)]

**Zinke: “Unfortunately, This Administration Is Fighting A More Aggressive War Against American Coal Than They Are Against ISIS.”**

“In July 2015, Zinke wrote: “Republicans and Democrats agree — we all want clean air and water and affordable power. Thankfully, advances in clean-coal technology have made it possible to have both, allowing us to use our vast reserves to power American homes and our industrial complex. We can’t power the economy on pixie dust and hope; it takes innovation and investment in areas like clean coal. Unfortunately, this Administration is fighting a more aggressive war against American coal than they are against ISIS.” [Great Falls Tribune, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [7/10/15](#)]

**Zinke: “I Have No Doubt That If The DOI Progresses With Their Plan, It Will Result In Massive Job Loss For Montana.”**

In July 2015, Zinke wrote: “We all know of the countless attempts to kill coal with regulations, cap-and-trade and carbon taxes. The DOI’s ill-conceived plan is just the latest example that will create an unpredictable and unstable market that threatens the livelihoods of our local communities and tribes. I have no doubt that if the DOI progresses with their plan, it will result in massive job loss for Montana. I find that unacceptable when the opportunity for growth is so great.” [Great Falls Tribune, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke Op-Ed, [7/10/15](#)]

**Bob Story, Montana Tax Payers Association Wrote An Op-Ed In Support Of Zinke’s Amendment To Prevent A Federal Rule Change On Coal Acquired On Federal Land**

In July 2015, Bob Story, the Executive Director of Montana’s Taxpayers Associate wrote: “Environmental groups are calling for fundamental changes in how royalties on federal coal are calculated and criticizing U.S. Congressman Ryan Zinke for taking steps to block that from happening. But Zinke is on the right side of this issue—he’s taking the appropriate steps to protect Montana jobs and prevent a federal rule change that could have disastrous consequences for our Montana economy.” [Missoulian, Bob Story Op-Ed, [7/20/15](#)]

**Heather Taylor-Miesle Op-Ed: Administration Plan To Close Loophole That Benefited Energy Companies Would Allow “Taxpayers In States Like Montana [To] See Millions Of Additional Income.”**

In August 2015, Heather Taylor-Miesle, Director, NRDC Action Fund wrote: “Finally, two amendments aimed to allow dirty energy companies to continue paying below-market rates for fossil fuels extracted from public lands. An amendment from Rep. Steve Pearce would prohibit any increase in the royalty rates paid for oil and gas. The Pearce amendment was adopted 231-198. An amendment from Rep. Ryan Zinke would have similarly prohibited the closing of a loophole that allows for cheap coal extraction from public lands. If the loophole were to be closed, taxpayers in states like Montana would see millions of additional income. The amendment was not voted upon.” [Huffington Post, Green, Heather Taylor-Miesle Op-Ed, [8/11/15](#)]

**Headline: Huffington Post: Green Blog: “Friends Of Polluters Rack Up More Dirty Votes.”**  
[Huffington Post, Green, Heather Taylor-Miesle Op-Ed, [8/11/15](#)]

### **Nicole Gentile: Zinke Offered An Amendment That Would Block The Obama Administration From Implementing A Rule That Would Close A Loophole In How Royalties Are Collected From Coal Mined On Federal Lands**

In June 2015, Center for American Progress Director of Campaigns, Public Lands, Nicole Gentile wrote: “Before leaving Washington D.C. last week for a 4th of July break, a Montana Congressman quietly proposed a budget rider that would allow some of the world’s biggest coal companies to continue to dodge royalty payments owed to U.S. taxpayers. The amendment from Representative Ryan Zinke (R-MT), offered on a spending bill that the House is expected to vote on in July, would block the Obama Administration from implementing a forthcoming rule that would close a loophole in how royalties are collected from coal mined on federal lands. [...] Rep. Zinke’s amendment is the latest addition to a wishlist of fossil fuel industry priorities that some members of Congress are trying to attach as riders on the Interior appropriations bill. Other fossil fuel industry-supported proposals would roll back recent conservation efforts to protect the sage grouse and halt a rule to apply safety standards for hydraulic fracturing on public lands. A recent review by the Western Values Project (WVP) found that three major coal companies have been providing thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to Rep. Zinke. ‘The math is pretty clear,’ WVP wrote last week. ‘Coal companies can spend a little to back a Congressman who will protect their massive taxpayer-funded subsidies. That’s a good deal for coal companies and Rep. Zinke, but it’s bad for the rest of us.’ [Center for American Progress Action Fund, Nicole Gentile Guest Contributor, [6/30/15](#)]

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### **Zinke Printing & Postage Charges On FEC Report Were Incurred During His Race For Congress**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke, fresh off his November election to Congress, raised \$528,000 in the first quarter. [...] The filing showed a number of expenses during the first three months of the year, ranging from fuel and attorney fees to lodging and bank and credit card fees. But the largest were for printing and postage, costs a Zinke spokeswoman said were incurred during his race for Congress. ‘It definitely looks like a big number,’ said Heather Swift, a spokeswoman with Zinke. ‘It’s not uncommon for campaigns to have expenses roll over from election year into the next quarter.’ [Great Falls Tribune, [4/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Spox Said \$300,000 Campaign Debt Should Be Paid Off By June “If Not A Little Sooner.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke, fresh off his November election to Congress, raised \$528,000 in the first quarter. [...] Zinke reported about \$300,000 in total debt and obligations at the end of the quarter. Swift said the campaign expects to have the debt paid off by the end of June, ‘if not a little sooner.’ [Great Falls Tribune, [4/23/15](#)]

### **Zinke Q3 Fundraising Report “Included \$91,500 From Political Action Committees.”**

“Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., raised \$806,000 in the third quarter and had about \$747,000 in cash on hand as of Sept. 30, his disclosure to the Federal Election Commission shows. The former Navy SEAL spent slightly more than \$440,000, a figure a Zinke spokeswoman attributed to mostly mailings and retirement of debt from his run for Congress last year. Heather Swift with Zinke’s office said the fundraising shows ‘growing support’ for the first-term congressman. Donations included \$91,500 from political action committees, the filing showed. [...] Zinke said this week he may run for speaker of the House. Swift said Friday ‘he’s still considering (a run). Paul Ryan hasn’t made a decision and that is going to impact Congressman Zinke as well as a lot of other people.’ Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin is considering whether to run for the House’s top position, with a decision expected as soon as next week. Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, is resigning from Congress.” [Great Falls Tribune, [10/16/15](#)]

### **Zinke Received \$500 In Campaign Donations From White Supremacist Group Leader Earl Holt, In October 2014**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke of Montana is among a group of Republicans who received donations from the leader of a white supremacist group cited by Charleston church murder suspect Dylann Roof. Documents show Earl Holt, the leader of the Council of Conservative Citizens, made a \$500 donation to Zinke’s election campaign in October 2014. Holt listed ‘slumlord’ as his occupation on the document. Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift said Monday Zinke will donate the money to a fund set up for the families of the victims of the Charleston shooting. ‘It’s being donated to the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund,’ she said.” [AP, [6/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Spox: “[The Money] It’s Being Donated To The Mother Emanuel Hope Fund.”**

“U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke of Montana is among a group of Republicans who received donations from the leader of a white supremacist group cited by Charleston church murder suspect Dylann Roof. Documents show Earl Holt, the leader of the Council of Conservative Citizens, made a \$500 donation to Zinke’s election campaign in October 2014. Holt listed ‘slumlord’ as his occupation on the document. Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift said Monday Zinke will donate the money to a fund set up for the families of the victims of the Charleston shooting. ‘It’s being donated to the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund,’ she said.” [AP, [6/22/15](#)]

### **Zinke Took \$500 From Whitefish White Supremacist Richard Spencer**

“Politico is reporting that in addition to taking money from white supremacist Earl Holt III, whose writings were referenced in Charleston shooter Dylann Roof’s racist manifesto, Representative Ryan Zinke took a \$500 donation from Whitefish white supremacist Richard Spencer during his 2014 House campaign. [...] Spencer is the head of an organization called The National Policy Institute, which describes itself as ‘dedicated to the heritage, identity, and future of European people in the United States and around the world.’ The Southern Poverty Law Center more accurately describes Spencer as ‘a suit-and-tie version of the white supremacists of old, a kind professional racist in khakis,’ while the Anti-Defamation League calls him ‘a sym-bol of a new gen-er-a-tion of intel-lec-tual white suprema-cists.’ To get just a sense of how despicable Spencer is, one needs merely watch the first few minutes of this video clip. In Whitefish, Spencer drew attention to himself by being expelled from the Big Mountain Ski Club for his racist views and statements, as well as for inspiring the people of Whitefish to rise up to support an anti-hate ordinance to block his National Policy Institute from conducting business in their town.” [Intelligent Discontent, [6/22/15](#)]

### **2014 Montana At-Large Seat**

#### **2014: Wrote Letter Saying He “Never Violated Any Campaign Law”**

In May 2014, Zinke wrote a letter in the *Great Falls Tribune*, stating that he “never violated any campaign law.” Zinke said, “While I have never violated any campaign law, I find it ironic that election officials have ruled that these “purity party” members have violated several campaign laws. They have been forced to return donations, fined for improper financial reporting, and chastised for making illegal “robocalls.” [Great Falls Tribune, [5/21/14](#)]

### **Nearly 26% of Donors Were Employees of Florida Based Fidelity Insurance**

In March 2014, the *Montana Standard* wrote that nearly 26 percent of Zinke's campaign donations came from executives and employees of Florida based Fidelity National Insurance, and its affiliated businesses and their political action committees. [Montana Standard, 3/23/14]

### **Fidelity Founded by Part-Time Montana Resident**

William B. Foley II, a part time Montana resident, founded and was the chairman, as of May 2014, of Fidelity. [Montana Standard, 3/23/14]

### **Majority Shareholder in Multiple Montana Businesses**

As of March 2014, Foley is also the majority shareholder of Whitefish Mountain Resort, the Glacier Jet Center, and the Glacier Restaurant Group. Foley also owns Rock Creek Cattle Company, a 30,000 acre luxury real estate development with a private golf course. [Montana Standard, 3/23/14; Hungry Horse News, 3/26/14]

### **Major Bundler for Republican Presidential Candidates**

Foley was also a major bundler for President George W Bush, McCain, and Romney. Zinke said, "He's a major donor that steps in when he thinks he's right. He just doesn't support Republicans. He's very careful about who he supports. His advice to me is you have to do what you say. Don't yield to pressure. He's got a Rolodex." [Hungry Horse News, 3/26/14; Montana Standard, 3/23/14]

### **November 2013: Paid Research Consultant That Previously Conducted Research for SOFA**

On November 21, 2013, Zinke's campaign paid Lester Cooper \$1,412 for "research fees." [Federal Election Commission, accessed [5/07/14](#)]

### **...Yet Special Operations for America Paid Consultant \$4,030 Also for Research**

In 2013, Special Operations for America paid Lester Cooper \$4,030 for research consulting. [Federal Election Commission, 5/01/14]

### **November 2013: Zinke's Campaign Reimbursed Him \$9,567**

On November 25, 2013, Zinke's campaign reimbursed Zinke \$9,567. [Federal Election Commission, accessed HYPERLINK "<http://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg/?14960352270>" [5/07/14](#)]

### **May 2014: Donated \$47,702 to His Campaign**

In May 2014, the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, reported that Zinke donated \$47,702 to his campaign. [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [5/29/14](#)]

### **2008 State Senate Campaign**

*Note: The 2008 campaign finance records were all written by hand and scanned into the Montana Secretary of State system. The documents seem to have small accounting errors and it would be unsurprising if additional documentation existed and is missing.*

### **Loaned \$12,284.90 to His Campaign**

In his 2008 campaign for State Senate, Zinke loaned himself \$12,284.90. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08; Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 16/08]

### **October 2008: Loaned \$10,000 to his Campaign**

In the reporting period that lasted from June 19, 2008 to October 18, 2008, Zinke loaned \$10,000 to his campaign. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

### **June 2008: Loaned \$2,284.90 to his Campaign**

In the reporting period that lasted from May 18, 2008 to June 18, 2008, Zinke loaned \$2,284.90 to his campaign. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 06/08]

**Donated \$2,700 to His Campaign**

In his 2008 campaign for State Senate, Zinke donated \$2,700 to his campaign. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08; Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 16/08]

**October 2008: Donated \$1,700 to His Campaign**

In the reporting period that lasted from June 19, 2008 to October 18, 2008, Zinke donated \$1,700 to his own campaign. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

**May 2008: Donated \$1,000 to His Campaign**

In the reporting period that lasted from February 25, 2008 to May 17, 2008, Zinke donated \$1,000 to his campaign. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 5/08]

**May 2008: Raised \$8,605 for His Campaign**

In the reporting period that lasted from February 25, 2008 to May 17, 2008, Zinke's campaign raised \$8,605 for his campaign. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 5/08]

**Raised \$5,895 for the Primary Election**

In the reporting period that lasted from February 25, 2008 to May 17, 2008, Zinke's campaign raised \$5,895 for the primary election. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 5/08]

**\$115 in Contributions under \$35**

Zinke's campaign raised \$115 in the reporting period that lasted from February 25, 2008 to May 17, 2008, in donations of under \$35. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 5/08]

**Raised \$2,710 for the General Election**

In the reporting period that lasted from February 25, 2008 to May 17, 2008, Zinke's campaign raised \$2,710 for the general election. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 5/08]

**May 2008: \$7,490 in Itemized Contributions**

During the reporting period that lasted from February 25, 2008 to May 17, 2008, \$7,490 was contributed to Zinke's campaign, including \$130 from PACs. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 5/08]

**May 2008: Spent \$4,475.21**

In the reporting period that lasted from February 25, 2008 to May 17, 2008, Zinke's campaign spent \$4,475.21. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 5/08]

EXPENDITURE	PURPOSE	DATE	AMOUNT
Sage Advertising Specialties	Signs	5/06/08	\$3,197.68
Whitefish Pilot	Newspaper Ad	5/06/08	\$255
Great Northern Printing	Printing of Flyers	4/30/08	\$305.18
U.S. Postal Service	Stamps, Postage	4/14/08	\$45.60
U.S. Postal Service	Stamps, Postage	5/16/08	\$671.75
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$4,475.21</b>

[Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 5/08]

**June 2008: \$4,589.90 in Contributions**

In the reporting period that lasted from May 18, 2008 to June 18, 2008, Zinke's campaign raised \$4,589.90. Zinke's campaign also noted that \$605.78 from the previous report was a loan that would be repaid. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 06/08]

**\$75 in Contributions under \$35**

In the reporting period that lasted from May 18, 2008 to June 18, 2008, Zinke's campaign raised \$75 from donations under \$35. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 06/08]

**June 2008: \$2,230 Itemized Contributions**

During the reporting period that lasted from May 18, 2008 to June 18, 2008, the itemized contributions to Zinke's campaign totaled \$2,280. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 06/08]

**June 2008: Spent \$390**

In the reporting period that lasted from May 18, 2008 to June 18, 2008, Zinke's campaign spent \$390. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 06/08]

PAYEE	PURPOSE	DATE	AMOUNT
Multimedia	Website	5/23/08	\$300
Inspire Communications	Mailer Design	5/15/08	\$45
Flathead Beacon	Newspaper Ads	5/28/08	\$45
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$390</b>

[Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 06/08]

**October 2008: Raised \$23,240.70**

In October 2008, in the reporting period that lasted from June 19, 2008 to October 18, 2008, Zinke's campaign raised \$23,240.70. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

**Raised \$90 for the Primary Election**

In October 2008, in the reporting period that lasted from June 19, 2008 to October 18, 2008, Zinke's campaign raised \$90 for the primary election. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

**Raised \$23,140.70 for the General Election**

In the reporting period that lasted from June 19, 2008 to October 18, 2008, Zinke's campaign raised \$23,140.70 for the general election. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

**\$255 in Contributions under \$35**

Zinke's campaign raised \$255 in the reporting period that from June 19, 2008 to October 18, 2008, in donations of under \$35. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

*NOTE: Zinke's campaign raised \$23,231.*

**October 2008: \$2,505 from PACs**

The table below illustrates contributions to Zinke's campaign from PACs, which totaled \$2,505 during the reporting period that lasted from June 19, 2008 to October 18, 2008.

NAME	CITY	STATE	TYPE	AMOUNT
Montana's Gas & Oil PAC	Helena	MT	General	\$125
MHA PAC Fund	Helena	MT	General	\$160
MDU Resources Group	Bismark	ND	General	\$100
PPL People For Good Government	Allentown	PA	General	\$160
Exxon Mobile	Irving	TX	General	\$130
Montana Farm Bureau	Bozeman	MT	General	\$100
Montana Coal Council PAC	Helena	MT	General	\$160
Motor Transportation PAC	Helena	MT	General	\$100
Montana R PAC	Helena	MT	General	\$160
Burlington Northern SF	Fort Worth	TX	General	\$160
Pfizer PAC	New York	NY	General	\$160

Montana Credit Union Advocacy Council	Helena	MT	General	\$50
ConocoPhillips Spirits PAC	Bartlesville	OK	General	\$100
Moncar	Helena	MT	General	\$100
Montana Troopers	Billings	MT	General	\$100
Mine PAC	Helena	MT	General	\$130
Montana Bankers PAC	Helena	MT	General	\$100
Property Casualty Insurers Association	Des Plaines	IL	General	\$160
Flathead County Republicans	Kalispell	MT	General	\$250
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$2,505</b>

[Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

### October 2008: \$8,771 in Individual Itemized Contributions

During the reporting period that lasted from June 19, 2008 to October 18, 2008, a total of \$8,771 in itemized individual contributions was contributed to Zinke's campaign. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

NAME	CITY	STATE	TYPE	AMOUNT
Rickles, Henry	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
King, AJ	Kalispell	MT	General	\$150
King, Tracie	Kalispell	MT	General	\$100
Troupe, Lee	Coronado	CA	General	\$150.35
Bakoubush II, John	Conrad	MT	General	\$130
Lozing, Peter	Cut Bank	MT	General	\$130
Jansky, Charles	Spring	TX	General	\$130
Coolridge Jr, Gus	Shelby	MT	General	\$130
Kluth, Bryon	Shelby	MT	General	\$130
Miller, Lois	Conrad	MT	General	\$130
McDermott, Gary	Shelby	MT	General	\$130
Mitchell, Dan	Cut Bank	MT	General	\$130
Howke, Steve	Clancy	MT	General	\$160
Stubblefield, Gary	Missoula	MT	General	\$100
Clinch, Aruther R.	Helena	MT	General	\$160
O'Hair, Todd	Helena	MT	General	\$100
Kaufman, Leonard	Kalispell	MT	General	\$160
Kaufman, Mary	Kalispell	MT	General	\$160
Reisch, Duane	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Racicot, Mark	Arlington	VA	General	\$160
Racicot, Judy	Arlington	VA	General	\$40
Long, Joel	Billings	MT	General	\$160
Long, Malcolm	Billings	MT	General	\$160
Sorensen, Jerald	Bigfork	MT	General	\$160
Ray, Thomas	Whitefish	MT	General	\$150
Finstad, John	Cut Bank	MT	General	\$130
Coco, Joe	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Kramer, Bruce	Missoula	MT	General	\$160
Woody, Greer	Missoula	MT	General	\$160
Woody, Bill	Missoula	MT	General	\$160
Konopatske, Jeanie	Whitefish	MT	General	\$160
Carlson, Duane	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100

Farmer, Linda	Whitefish	MT	General	\$160
Zoumboukos, Neal	Springfield	OR	General	\$160
Nogal, Sandra	Whitefish	MT	General	\$160
Martel, William	Whitefish	MT	General	\$160
Wagner, Mark	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Whitehead, David	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Petersen, John	Whitefish	MT	General	\$130
Phillips, Lyle	Whitefish	MT	General	\$70
Phillips, Judy	Whitefish	MT	Primary	\$90
Phillips, Judy	Whitefish	MT	General	\$160
Kaltschmidt Jr., Don	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Kaltschmidt, Debbie	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Collins, Lynda	Kalispell	MT	General	\$100
Brown, Jonathan	Carpinteria	CA	General	\$150
Depratu, Bret	Vaushin	MT	General	\$50
Barnes, Frank	Whitefish	MT	General	\$50
Wagner, John	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Hamilton, Howard	Whitefish	MT	General	\$80
Mack, Robert	Whitefish	MT	General	\$120
Elliott, Beverly	Whitefish	MT	General	\$50
Tate, Bruce	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Skinsdingrude, Karl	Columbia Falls	MT	General	\$160
Smyle, Jerome	Billings	MT	General	\$100
Reese, Eric	Chicago	IL	General	\$150.35
Hughs, Rose	Helena	MT	General	\$100
Weingartner, Sue	Helena	MT	General	\$100
Horsfall, Brian	Walnut Creek	CA	General	\$100
Horsfall, Susan	Walnut Creek	CA	General	\$100
Duff, Dave	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Bennett, Don	Columbia Falls	MT	General	\$100
Moore, John	Whitefish	MT	General	\$50
Zinke, David	Missoula	MT	General	\$100
Burg, William	Whitefish	MT	General	\$50
Bousquet, Lillian	Spearfish	SD	General	\$160
Lantis, Travis	Spearfish	SD	General	\$160
Lantis, Mary	Spearfish	SD	General	\$160
Patterson, Dave	Brush Prairie	WA	General	\$160
Swedberg, Steve	Red Lodge	MT	General	\$50
Boatman, Susan	Columbus	MT	General	\$100
Smith, Brent	Kalispell	MT	General	\$100
Dowaliay, Mike	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$8,771</b>

[Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

### October 2008: Spent \$23,741.11

In October 2008, in the reporting period that lasted from June 19, 2008 to October 18, 2008, Zinke's campaign spent \$23,741.11. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

*NOTE: Zinke's campaign reported expenditures of \$23,711.11. However, adding up the individual expenditures brought the total spent to \$23,741.11.*

EXPENDITURE	PURPOSE	DATE	AMOUNT
Sage Advertising	Magnets	8/04/08	\$813.83
Thomas Printing	Hand Outs	9/15/08	\$413
Thomas Printing	Hand Outs	9/27/08	\$413
Thomas Printing	Postcards	9/27/08	\$775
Flathead Publishing	Newspaper Ads	9/30/08	\$524.16
UPSP	Postage	10/01/08	\$420
Political Ink	Mailers	10/01/08	\$15,144.58
Flathead Publishing	Newspaper Ads	10/15/08	\$540.80
Thomas Printing	Hand Outs	10/06/08	\$576
Grouse Mountain Lodge	Social Event	9/20/08	\$924.94
KJJR AM 80	Radio Ads	10/15/08	\$1,500
KALS 97.1 FM	Radio Ads	10/15/08	\$745.80
KOFI 1180 AM	Radio Ads	10/15/08	\$950
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$23,741.11</b>

[Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

#### **November 2008: Raised \$3,193.99**

In the reporting period that lasted from October 19, 2008 to November 19, 2008, Zinke's campaign raised \$3,193.99. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 11/08]

#### **\$23.35 in Contributions under \$35**

Zinke's campaign raised \$23.35 in the reporting period that October 19, 2008 to November 19, 2008, in donations of under \$35. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 10/08]

*NOTE: Zinke's campaign reported \$3,193.99 in total contributions. However, my calculations added \$3,194.35.*

#### **November 2008: \$3,171 Itemized Contributions**

NAME	CITY	ST	TYPE	AMOUNT
Flathead County Republican Central Committee	Kalispell	MT	General	\$160
Kenkel, David	Whitefish	MT	General	\$150
Chambers, Elspeth	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Smith, Laura	Kalispell	MT	General	\$100
Burke Jr., Jerome	Washington	DC	General	\$100
Grattan, Brad	Castle Rock	CO	General	\$100
Grattan, Lori	Castle Rock	CO	General	\$100
Flint, Will	Snohomish	WA	General	\$100
Flint, Lisa	Snohomish	WA	General	\$100
Abell, Charles	Whitefish	MT	General	\$100
Bee Sr., Benny	Whitefish	MT	General	\$160
Bee, Lucy	Whitefish	MT	General	\$160
Bee Jr., Benny	Kalipsell	MT	General	\$160
Bee, Dennis	Kalispell	MT	General	\$160
Bee, Cassie	Kalpisell	MT	General	\$160
Larson, Fredrick	Billings	MT	General	\$160

Nordstrom, Richard	Montclair	NJ	General	\$94.25
Boehler, Michael	De Kalb	IL	General	\$151.50
Carter, Greg	Whitefish	MT	General	\$151.60
Williams, David	Whitefish	MT	General	\$151.60
Blake, Rick	Whitefish	MT	General	\$152.24
Blake, Alicia	Whitefish	MT	General	\$152.24
Martin, Bob	Chula Vista	CA	General	\$152.24
Sliter, Justin	Kalispell	MT	General	\$94.97
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$3,171</b>

[Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 11/08]

**November 2008: Spent \$9,820.26**

In the reporting period that lasted from October 19, 2008 to November 19, 2008, Zinke's campaign spent \$9,820.26. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 11/08]

PAYEE	PURPOSE	DATE	AMOUNT
Whitefish Pilot	Newspaper Ads	10/22/08	\$1,598.68
The Daily Inter Lake	Newspaper Ads	10/30/08	\$1,550.46
Flathead Beacon	Newspaper Ads	10/27/08	\$61.57
Thomas Printing	Hand-Outs	10/23/08	\$422
Great Northern Brewing	Social Event	10/08/08	\$300
KJJR AM 880	Radio Ads	10/30/08	\$1,249.30
Inspire Communications	Graphics	10/30/08	\$458
KCFW	TV Ads	10/30/08	\$4,180.25
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$9,820.26</b>

[Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 11/08]

**November 2008: Campaign had \$387.23 Cash-on-Hand**

In the reporting period that lasted from October 19, 2008 to November 19, 2008, Zinke's campaign had \$387.23 cash on hand. [Candidate Campaign Finance Report, 11/08]