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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA POIRIER, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
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February 21, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Mailstop 4428  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

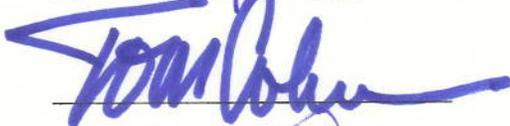
As members representing the five-state region that would be negatively impacted by a listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), we respectfully request that our offices be provided with all information utilized in 2008 to change the Listing Priority Number (LPN) from 8 to 2. As the Service noted in a December 10, 2008 Federal Register Notice (73 FR 75179), "We find that ongoing threats to the lesser prairie-chicken throughout its range is high because the threats put the viability of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken at substantial risk. The threats are ongoing and thus, imminent. Consequently, we changed the LPN from an 8 to a 2 for this species."

Considering the LPC's ten years as a relatively low priority candidate species, it seems unusual that such a dramatic shift would occur. In our view, providing detailed information regarding this shift would facilitate better communication between the Service, states and local governments as well as other stakeholders. In addition, it would help them to more wisely allocate limited resources to LPC conservation efforts. In light of the looming proposed listing decision in September, please provide us this information in writing within 14 days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

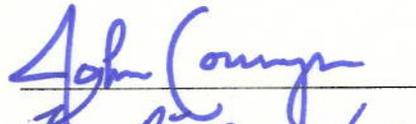


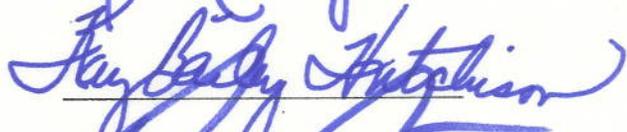
Jerry Moran





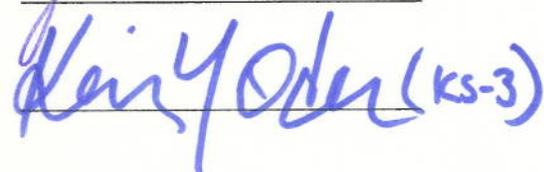












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