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*Grace F. Napolitano*  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
38th District of California

December 5, 2008

NATURAL RESOURCES 1  
WATER AND POWER—CHAIR  
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
CONGRESSIONAL MENTAL HEALTH  
CAUCUS  
Co-CHAIR  
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President-elect of the United States  
John C. Kluczynski Federal Office building  
230 South Dearborn St.  
38<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

**Subject: Interior Department Secretary Appointment for Raúl M. Grijalva**

Dear President-elect Obama:

I respectfully request your strong consideration of Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva, whom I heartily endorse and support for Secretary of Interior in your new administration.

Raúl has been a strong advocate, a tenacious defender and tireless supporter of public lands, consistently leading the effort to ensure the Department of Interior upholds its mission and its responsibility to protect our public treasures. I know of no other member of Congress more articulate and passionate on these issues.

Throughout my ten years of service on the House Natural Resources Committee and as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Water and Power, I have had the honor of not only sitting next to but also working closely with Raúl on issues of water and public lands. In addition, as legislators from bordering states of California and Arizona, respectively, we have collaborated on critical issues of mutual concern pertaining to Colorado River and other water resources.

I have witnessed Raúl taking on a vast breadth of issues from insular affairs to immigration and Native American sovereignty rights. His unwavering dedication to the issues has always ensured that there is an inclusive agenda on the table and that we not only address the problem at hand but lay the foundation to prevent future concerns.

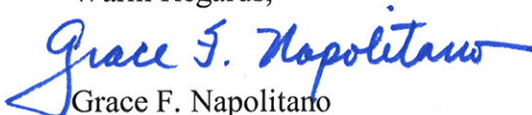
He was the first to bring legislative attention to Uranium Mining at the Grand Canyon earlier this year. This issue not only impacts to Arizona, but is a national issue of protecting one of our greatest treasures and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Grand Canyon is also home to watersheds that impact the Colorado River and over 20 million people in seven states, and as well as the nation of Mexico. While the issue has not been resolved, he continues to work diligently to include the communities and constituencies impacted.

As the Chair of House Subcommittee on Water and Power I have always enjoyed a strong and positive working relationship with Raúl in his subcommittee of jurisdiction and have the greatest admiration and respect for his accomplishments, as well as his ability to bring in different perspectives to proposals.

Raúl is the only Democratic member on the Insular Affairs subcommittee that is not from an insular area. He is a true advocate for tribal sovereignty and rights in the Committee, sponsoring strong legislation that addresses various tribal needs which have been otherwise ignored during the current administration.

Along with many of my colleagues, I look forward to a change of administration at Department of Interior, so that the agency can return to its core mission "...to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage." Having worked on water issues impacting the 17 Western States and the Bureau of Reclamation, I urge your strong consideration of Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva for Secretary of Interior. It would be a pleasure to work with an individual who is as hard working and dedicated as he has proven to be as a legislator.

Warm Regards,



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress