

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2008

Senator Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
361-A Russell Senate Office
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

Legislation giving the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) permanent authorization (S.1139) may be taken up by the Senate. The House of Representatives passed this legislation on April 4, 2008. Since that time, we have been informed that there is an ongoing investigation by the Inspector General for the Department of Interior, into the propriety of certain conduct by top officials within the NLCS.

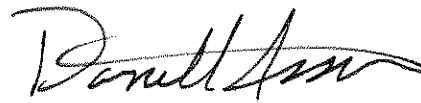
Given this ongoing investigation initiated by the Inspector General, we think that it is important that any steps to codify the NLCS be completely suspended until investigation of the NLCS officials has concluded. Statutorily recognizing this administratively created department at a time when an investigation into the conduct of the NLCS top officials is ongoing would be of grave concern to Americans. Waste, fraud, or abuse by federal officials should never be tolerated. Acting to codify a department while an investigation into the conduct of its top officials is ongoing, we believe would violate the responsibility we owe to the American people.

We therefore urge you to ensure that S. 1139 (or HR. 2016, the House companion bill) not be considered to codify the NLCS while this investigation is going on. If you would like additional information on this matter, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Bill Sali
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Louis Gohmert
Member of Congress