

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Secretary Jewell,

We are deeply disturbed by the recent reports of actions taken by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) against the Bundy Family of Nevada. While we certainly understand that "there are two sides to every story" and that the family's issues with the BLM are not new, we remain concerned about the escalation of force on the part of federal law enforcement with their surrounding of the Bundy family's ranch.

This escalation of force reportedly includes the deployment of roughly two hundred heavily armed personnel, including snipers, along with the deployment of Tasers, the use of K-9 units, and brutal physical force against members of the Bundy family and their neighbors who had come to support them. One of the victims of this aggression is reported to have included Margaret Houston, a fifty-seven year old mother of eleven children and a recovering cancer victim.

The Governor of Nevada, Brian Sandoval, recently said, "No cow justifies the atmosphere of intimidation which currently exists, nor the limitation of constitutional rights that are sacred to all Nevadans." We agree with Governor Sandoval and ask that the Bureau of Land Management work to de-escalate this situation immediately.

Unfortunately, we know all too well that in situations like these, if tensions continue to escalate, the consequences can be devastating. We ask that the BLM allow "cooler heads to prevail" and to pursue a non-violent resolution to this disagreement.

Signed,



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress

