

Exhibit 4



704C East 13th Street, Suite 568
Whitefish, MT 59937

Clarice Julka
FOIA Officer
Office of the Secretary
E-Mail: osfoia@ios.doi.gov

August 1, 2019

Dear Records Request Officer:

Background Information

On July 16, 2019, the Department of the Interior sent a letter to Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment, announcing that the Bureau of Land Management would be moving its headquarters to Grand Junction.¹ Since first proposed by Senator Gardner in 2016,² DOI and BLM have neglected to many concerns raised by BLM employees and questions from critics about this proposed move, and many of those same questions remain unanswered as of today.³

FOIA Request

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I request access to and copies of all correspondence between any Department of Interior officials in the Immediate Office of the Secretary, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, Office of Communications, Office of the Solicitor, Office of Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management or Office of Policy, Management and Budget, and any individual working in or representing the Washington D.C. or Colorado offices of Senator Cory Gardner, Senator Michael Bennet, or Representative Scott Tipton – including Sen. Gardner, Sen. Bennet, and Rep. Tipton themselves – related to the relocation of the headquarters of Bureau of Land Management, sent since June 1, 2018.

"All correspondence" should include, but not be limited to, all emails, letters, texts, BisonConnect messages, Facebook and/or Twitter messages, Signal messages, WhatsApp messages, or faxes, by any of the listed appointees in the Office of the Secretary during the requested time period.

¹ *Denver Post*, [07/16/19](#)

² Sen. Gardner press release, [05/01/19](#)

³ *CPR News*, [07/16/19](#)

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).⁴

Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is “in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding” of government operations and is not “primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.”⁵ The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the federal government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public’s business. The public has a significant interest in ensuring that its statutory right to access public records is not being undercut by political concerns.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Western Values Project does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Western Values Project’s financial interest. Western Values Project’s mission is to give a voice to Western values in the national conversation about resource development and public lands conservation, a space too often dominated by industry lobbyists and their government allies. Western Values Project will use the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Western Values Project will also make materials it gathers available on our public website <http://www.westernvaluesproject.org/>.

Accordingly, Western Values Project qualifies for a fee waiver.

Conclusion

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org.

If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Brad Hennessy, my associate who will be handling all follow-up on this request. Brad can be reached at brad@westernvaluesproject.org or at (406) 924-9491.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act.

⁴ See, e.g., *McClellan Ecological Seepage Situation v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987).

⁵ 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii)

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Chris Saeger
Executive Director
Western Values Project