

News Releases November 9, 2018 by Larkin Corrigan

WVP Launches Ad Campaign in Montana Calling on Ryan Zinke to Resign

Today, Montana-based conservation watchdog group Western Values Project announced they will run a nearly \$30,000 ad campaign in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's home state calling on Zinke to resign. The [full-page newspaper ads](#), which highlight Zinke's ethical failures, will run Sunday in seven Montana papers: the *Kalispell Daily Inter Lake*, *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, *Billings Gazette*, *Butte Montana Standard*, *Helena Independent Record*, *Missoulian*, and *Ravalli Republic*. The ads come following recent news that President Trump is considering firing his Interior Secretary after an investigation into Zinke was referred to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate potential criminal activity.

"It's time for Secretary Zinke to leave through his \$139,000 taxpayer-funded doors," said **Western Values Project Executive Director Chris Saeger**. "During his tenure as Interior Secretary, he has abused his public office for personal gain to an unprecedented degree and public lands users have paid the price. His last act at Interior should be to finally hold himself accountable and resign."

Earlier this week, President Trump announced that he was "[looking at](#)" allegations that Zinke violated ethics rules. The President's concern comes after [CNN reported](#) that the Interior's office of the inspector general referred an investigation into Zinke to DOJ. The referred investigation [deals](#) with Zinke's

abuse of public office for private gain and his possible involvement in his family foundation's sweetheart real estate deal with the Chairman of Halliburton.

The investigation was referred to DOJ just days before the [leaked](#) and subsequently [walked-back](#) announcement of an Inspector General (IG) replacement. Just after this botched firing, Interior's IG released a scathing report that found that Zinke had wasted \$25,000 in taxpayer dollars on a family trip to Turkey, took his campaign donors boating, and told his staff to explore giving his wife a volunteer job at Interior to avoid reimbursing taxpayers for her travel.

Zinke is the most scandal-plagued member of the Trump administration, being the subject of at least [fifteen](#) federal investigations since he started as Interior Secretary 20 months ago.

Earlier this week, Western Values Project launched www.hasryanzinkebeenfiredyet.com as a handy reference to keep tabs on the Interior Secretary's remaining time at the Department.

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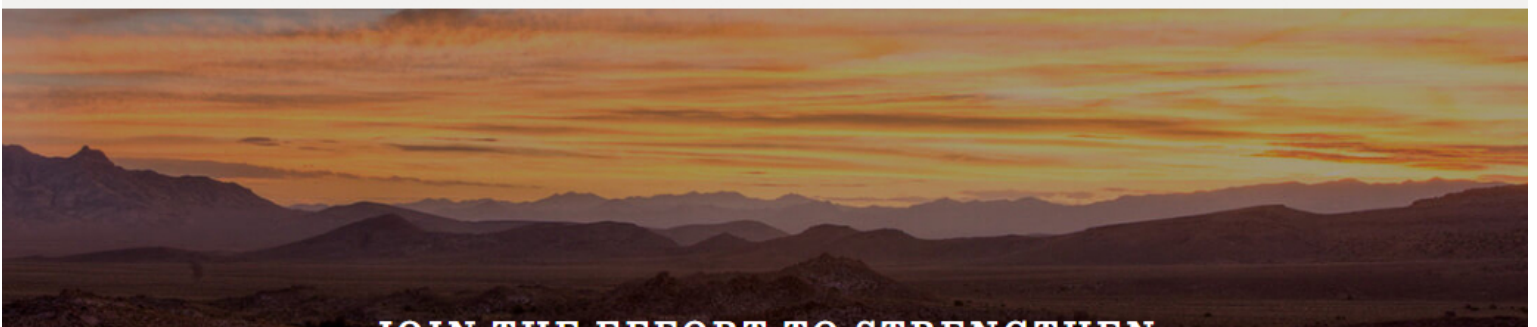


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