



# United States Department of the Interior

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**JUL 11 2017**

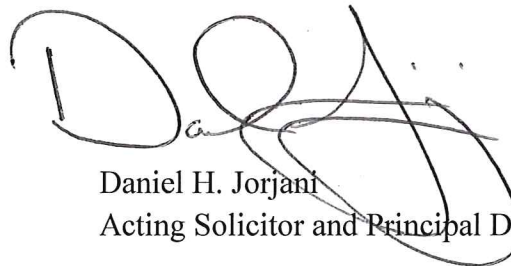
Laura Skaer  
Executive Director  
American Exploration & Mining Association  
10 N. Post Street, Suite 305  
Spokane, WA 99201-0705

Dear Ms. Skaer:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Ryan Zinke dated May 25, 2017, regarding the recent petition for a writ of certiorari filed before the United States Supreme Court in *Rinehart v. California*, No. 16-970 (U.S.). The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf.

As you note in your letter, the Supreme Court has invited the Acting Solicitor General to provide the federal government's views on Mr. Rinehart's petition for review. The Solicitor General's Office is taking all viewpoints into consideration in deciding how the United States will respond to the Supreme Court's invitation. I see that you have already copied the Office of the Solicitor General on your letter so he has the benefit of your views as the federal government considers how it will respond. Thank you for sharing your organization's position regarding the federal preemption issues raised in Mr. Rinehart's petition.

Sincerely,



Daniel H. Jorjani  
Acting Solicitor and Principal Deputy Solicitor

cc: Kathy Benedetto, Bureau of Land Management  
Jeffrey B. Wall, Acting Solicitor General  
Jeff Wood, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Environment & Natural Resources Division