

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
119 N. COMMERCIAL STREET, SUITE 1350  
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225  
(360) 733-4500

2930 WETMORE AVENUE, SUITE 9F  
EVERETT, WA 98201  
(425) 252-3188

E-Mail: Rick.Larsen@mail.house.gov  
<http://larsen.house.gov>

ARMED SERVICES

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4702

January 23, 2013

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Thank you for your four years of dedicated service as Secretary of the Interior. Your leadership and perspective as a Westerner have been critically important in advancing our country, and I sincerely appreciate your service.

Before you leave, I urge you to finish an effort you have been critical in supporting: designating a National Monument in the San Juan Islands. As you know, the Bureau of Land Management manages approximately 1,000 acres in these islands, which are important wildlife habitat and draw thousands of tourists every year. I appreciated your personal visits to the San Juans to discuss these lands and how best to protect them.

I introduced legislation to protect these lands in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, and plan to reintroduce that legislation in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. Because of continued legislative delays, my colleagues and I wrote to you last year urging a National Monument designation for these lands. I now ask that as you consider your final weeks as Secretary of the Interior, you continue your push to protect these lands.

This approach has been endorsed by the volunteer community group that first developed the idea of a National Conservation Area. Stakeholders within local, state, and tribal government, including the San Juan County Council and the Skagit County Board of Commissioners, are also supportive. I believe such an approach will best serve the conservation needs of these important areas. I ask that you continue to cement your legacy as a champion of public lands by announcing a National Monument designation for the San Juans.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen  
US Congressman  
Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> District