

Hyde-Smith seeks withdrawal of Biden BLM nominee

Energy Committee Republicans Highlight Nominee's False & Misleading Statements, Past Ties to Eco-Terrorist Cell

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) today joined fellow Republicans on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in sending President Biden a letter that calls on him to withdraw his nominee to lead the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The letter highlights the false and misleading statements made by nominee Tracy Stone-Manning in a sworn statement to the Com-

mittee. The Senators also point out Stone-Manning's extremist activities that disqualify her to lead the BLM, which administers almost 250 million acres of federal lands and nearly 700 million acres of subsurface mineral rights.

"We believe that Ms. Stone-Manning's false and misleading statements, as well as her extremist activities, disqualify her from serving as Director of this important agency," the Sena-

tors wrote. "Any individual who leads this important agency must have the faith and trust of the American people. Ms. Stone-Manning has violated this trust."

The letter included an appendix that details the facts of the case and demonstrates why Stone-Manning's nomination must be withdrawn.

Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) led the letter, which was also signed by Senators Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Mike Lee (R-Utah),

Maybe you feel like you are waking up to a country that is new. It's not home. It's different. You may not even like it. You can grumble, complain, sit, sulk, blame and condemn. Or just maybe you can believe God wanted you to be alive now, for such a time as this, and embrace the culture as your new place of ministry.

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Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), and Roger Marshall (R-Kan.).

Read the full letter below.

Dear President Biden: We request that you withdraw the nomination of Ms. Tracy Stone-Manning to serve as Director of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

We do not make this request lightly. Ms. Stone-Manning has made false and misleading statements in a sworn statement to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (Committee) regarding her activities associated with an eco-terrorist cell whose tree spiking in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest in 1989 put lives at risk. Tree spiking involves hammering a metal rod, nail, or other material into a tree trunk, either at the base where a logger might cut into the tree, or higher up where it would affect a sawmill that later processes the wood. Tree spiking causes damage to saws — and to the loggers and sawmill workers using them — if the tree is cut. A logger or sawmill

worker may suffer serious injury or even death if his or her saw cuts into a tree spike and breaks. In fact, the lives of the head sawyer and other sawmill workers at Plum Creek Manufacturing's sawmill in Pablo, Montana, were endangered when their saw hit one of the tree spikes from the 1989 incident. Wildland firefighters are also at risk from tree spikes. It is our understanding that some of the tree spikes from the 1989 incident are still in place and remain a serious threat to public safety today.

We believe that Ms. Stone-Manning's false and misleading statements, as well as her extremist activities, disqualify her from serving as Director of this important agency. As you are aware, the BLM manages one in every ten acres of land in the United States, and approximately thirty percent of the nation's minerals. The BLM also manages close to 65 million acres of forests and woodlands across twelve western states and Alaska. Any individual who leads this important agency must have the faith and trust of the American people. Ms. Stone-Manning has violated this trust.

President Obama's first Director of the BLM, Bob Abbey, initially endorsed Ms. Stone-Manning's nomination, but has now retracted his support in light of recent reports about her activities associated with the tree spiking event. In an article published in the Daily Montanan on June 18, 2021, titled "Stone-Manning's nomination doomed after tree-spiking incident?," Mr. Abbey was quoted as stating that Ms. Stone-Manning's involvement with the tree spiking event "should disqualify her" from serving as Director of the BLM. "BLM needs a really strong leader," he said. "To put someone in that position that has this type of resume will just bring needless controversy that is not good for the agency or for the public lands."

Attached is an Appendix presenting the facts supporting why Ms. Stone-Manning's nomination must be withdrawn. We look forward to working with you to approve a nominee that respects the rule of law and is committed to protecting American lives. Your favorable consideration of this important request is greatly appreciated.



Something that happens to me quite often, is I wake up in a hotel and forget where I am. It may be that I'm on a hunting trip or away at a speaking gig, but I wake up and before my eyes open, my mind tells me I'm home. There's been a few times I've woken up in the dark and made my way to the bathroom. In my mind, however, I'm at home, so I go down the hallway or make a left turn, or something like that. And there have been other times I have walked into a mirror or tried to grab a doorknob on a window or opened the door to the hotel hallway thinking it was the door to that bathroom. As quick as possible, I must get my wits about me, snap out of it, and realize where I am in order to make the right adjustments. I am in an area that is home to a university. Students move here from all parts of the country. They're finding out important things like how we communicate, our customs, and what soup beans are. While they are here, they will make new friends and have new directions. And they will adapt their living because of the new place they have been transplanted. Most of them will spend a few years here while planning to either return home or to some other desirable destination. But what if they could never go back? What if that option was off the table? And what if one day, I woke up in a place that was my new home? And I could never go back. What if that happened to you? What could you do? Well, you might grumble, but what good would that

do? You might long for days gone by. You might become a hermit and never associate with anyone. You might even try to change the people around you, so they become more like you. There is one more option. You could change and adapt. And if you are a Christian, you could see this as the hand of God and could say, "Alright Lord, I get it. I'll change. I'll adapt. I'll live as your follower in a land that is different than my own."

Did you know that several stories in the Bible give us this scenario? I think of people like Joseph, Daniel, Nehemiah, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego. All of these woke up to another country and culture. And if you look at each of these stories you will notice some similarities. Namely these. They embraced their new culture while keeping their convictions and their commitment to God. Here's another way to put it. You can adapt to your culture and still keep your conviction and your convictions. So here we have these men who woke up in a place that was all new to them. Here's what they didn't do.

- They didn't grumble.
- They didn't long for days gone by.
- They didn't complain about the government.
- They didn't sit and sulk.
- They didn't condemn everybody and everything.
- Instead, they kept their commitment. They followed their convictions. They embraced their culture.
- And They allowed God to use them to change their new world.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1) Lennon or Penn
- 5) Blacksmith's workplace
- 10) Time machine destination
- 14) "To Sir, With Love" singer-actress
- 15) Turn aside, as one's eyes
- 16) Palo ____, Calif.
- 17) "While" attachment of old
- 18) La Scala's place
- 19) Repair sock holes
- 20) Four front backers
- 23) Ocean land
- 24) Run with a marriage license?
- 25) Medical solution
- 28) Nursing home staff?
- 30) Not invitational, in tournaments
- 31) "Two wrongs don't make a right," e.g.
- 33) Not talking
- 36) Four front backers
- 40) Key grip's workplace
- 41) Express feelings
- 42) Turkish military title
- 43) Man-goat of myth
- 44) Certain string player of old
- 46) Ceremony site
- 49) In progress
- 51) Three front backers
- 57) Foul mood
- 58) Modify, as the Constitution
- 59) Like a moray
- 60) Do some lawn work
- 61) The 100 in a pound
- 62) Chest rattle
- 63) Old Russian despot
- 64) Kicked in the pot, as chips
- 65) Places for pampering

DOWN

- 1) Malamute's load
- 2) Continental currency
- 3) "On top of which ..."
- 4) Fuel for the human body
- 5) Feuders on a game show
- 6) Like an old shepherd's charges
- 7) Get a new tenant for
- 8) Neutral shade
- 9) Large part of Sicilian scenery
- 10) Table tennis item
- 11) Texas battle site
- 12) Guitar securer
- 13) 1,000 kilograms
- 21) Certain psychedelic
- 22) Keep a subscription
- 25) Becomes inedible, in a way
- 26) Unsharpened sword
- 27) Where shots are put
- 28) Hospice offering
- 29) "Long ____ ..."
- 31) Author's unknown byline, briefly
- 32) EPA concern of the 1970s
- 33) Adoring Biblical trio
- 34) Grunts of disgust
- 35) Part of many entrees
- 37) Considers, as a judge
- 38) Swift Aussie bird
- 39) Law firm elite
- 43) More lucrative, as a contract
- 44) Bullied (with "over")
- 45) Thee, today
- 46) Item in the black
- 47) Generates interest?
- 48) Russian forest
- 49) Word with "press" or "free"
- 50) Stolen goods receiver
- 52) Snack of Spain
- 53) Word of approval
- 54) Tide type
- 55) Legendary Fitzgerald of jazz
- 56) Some breads

FRONT (F)OR BACK By Timothy E. Parker

