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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0605**

July 25, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary, Department of the Interior  
Mail Stop 6242  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Kempthorne;

I am writing today to express my concern with recent reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) may be considering a reversal of some decisions involving the listing or delisting of certain species and subspecies on the Endangered Species list, including the dubious Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

Where was such considered decision-making when the Preble's mouse was originally listed in 1998? Where was the outcry when this common species that inhabits half of North America was listed as one of thirteen so-called subspecies? Where was the Inspector General's concern when Preble's was listed based on subjective examinations of merely four adult specimens of mice? This entire process has been a shallow attempt by environmentalists and some agency bureaucrats to further their no-growth agenda in Colorado and the West.

The real outrage is that Deputy Assistant Secretary Macdonald and other high ranking officials at the Department of Interior (DOI) did not issue a final rule delisting the Preble's mouse based upon its positive distribution, abundance and population trends (the substance of the petitions to delist). It is troubling that DOI would squander an opportunity to ensure that questionable subspecies with no quantifiable physical differences will no longer be listed under the ESA.

The FWS listed Preble's as threatened in 1998 based on two basic propositions: (1) Preble's was physically distinct from other subspecies of meadow jumping mice; and (2) Preble's populations had declined over a significant portion of its range. Both of these propositions have proven to be false.

The FWS has violated the Endangered Species Act in its continued failure to delist Preble's. The FWS has ignored its own peer review policy, ignored that there are no taxonomic differences between Preble's and other so-called subspecies, stacked review panels, misappropriated funds and ignored a Data Quality Act challenge in violation of federal law. The result is that resources continue to be wasted on a common rodent.

Before a final decision is made, I request a full briefing on this matter and urge you to consider the facts surrounding the Preble meadow jumping mouse listing in its entirety.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Lamborn". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress