



Shaping the future for birds

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

June 13, 2014

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) remains concerned about the potential impacts of recent changes to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) 2009 eagle take permit rule that will allow the wind energy industry and others to apply for and receive 30-year permits to kill Bald and Golden Eagles. As you know, the 2009 rule requires that eagle take permits be compatible with the preservation of eagles, which are incredibly important to many Americans and are protected by federal law under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

ABC is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to conserve native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. ABC acts by safeguarding the rarest species, conserving and restoring habitats, and reducing threats, while building capacity in the bird conservation movement.

ABC supports the development of clean, renewable sources of energy such as wind power, but also believes that it must be done responsibly and with minimal impact on our public trust resources, including native species of birds and bats, and particularly threatened, endangered and other protected species, such as Bald and Golden Eagles.

ABC respectfully requests that DOI and USFWS conduct a thorough science-based review of the 2009 rule change and seek public comment during the process. We further request that all applications for 30-year incidental take permits for eagles be suspended until DOI and the USFWS conduct such a review. During this suspension, we also request that DOI and the USFWS conduct a NEPA review of the entire amended rule as required by federal law. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your written response.

Sincerely,

Michael Hutchins, Ph.D.
National Coordinator
Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign

Cc: D. Ashe