

Ryan Zinke

Red Flags

According To GOP Data Center, Ryan Zinke Is Registered As An Unaffiliated Voter And Classified As A Hard Republican. (GOP Data Center, Accessed 12/12/16)

Zinke Said That Both Clinton And Trump Are “Fundamentally Flawed,” Adding “You Can’t Defend Trump. He’s Un-Defendable.” (Sam Wilson, “Zinke Reaffirms Support For Trump Presidency,” [Daily Inter Lake \[Kalispell Montana\]](#), 10/26/16)

When Asked About Trump’s Comments About The Khan Family, Zinke Said “No One Should Attack A Gold Star Family.” (CNN s “Newsroom,” 9/28/16)

Zinke Said “I Certainly Do Not Agree With Mr. Trump On A Lot Of Issues.” (Regan Colyer, “U.S. Representative Campaign,” [Sidney \[Montana\] Herald](#), 10/25/16)

Zinke Said “I Would Not Have Made That Call” When Asked About Trump’s Call With The President Of Taiwan. (CNN s “Out Front With Erin Burnett,” 12/2/16)

Retired Navy SEAL Captain Larry Bailey, The Former Commanding Officer Of The Facility Where Zinke Received His Early SEAL Training, Publicly Accused Zinke Of Misusing U.S. Navy Travel Funds For Personal Travel. (John S. Adams, “Former Navy Officer Stands By Statements Against Zinke,” [Great Falls \[Montana\] Tribune](#), 12/23/14)

Questions Have Been Raised About Zinke’s Montana Residency, With Democrats Claiming Zinke Has Stronger Ties To California Than To The State He Represents. (Jayme Fraser and Holly Michels, “Zinke Decries Attacks On His Montana Residency,” [Independent Record \[Helena Montana\]](#), 10/23/16)

While Running For Congress In 2014, Zinke Called Hillary Clinton The “Anti-Christ,” Referring To Her As “The Real Enemy.” (Amanda Terkel, “Ryan Zinke, GOP House Candidate, Calls Hillary Clinton The ‘Anti Christ,’” [The Huffington Post](#) 2/4/14)

In October 2014, Zinke Made A Joke About Waterboarding Prior To A Debate, Saying His Opponent “Plays Guitar...I Waterboard People.” (Alan Zerembo, “Does Being A Veteran Help Candidates? A Montana Politician Hopes So,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 10/24/14)

Zinke Voted In Favor Of Trade Promotion Authority. (H.R.1314, [Roll Call Vote # 362](#) Adopted 219 211 R 191 54 D 28 157, 6/12/15)

In July 2016, Zinke Resigned A Position As A Delegate To The Republican National Convention Because Of The GOP Platform’s Stance On The Transfer Of Federal Lands To The States. (Tom Lutey, “Zinke Resigns Delegate Post Over Public Lands Disagreement Still Will Speak At RNC,” [Billings Gazette](#) 7/15/16)

Zinke Has Been Accused Of Previously Having A Pro-Choice Record. (Charles S. Johnson, “Zinke s Abortion Votes Draw Criticism,” [The Montana Standard](#) 5/4/14)

Zinke Has Been Accused Of Having Too Close Of Ties With A Super PAC He Set Up. (Matt Volz, “GOP s Zinke Reaps Benefit Of PAC He Founded, But Is It Legal?” [The Associated Press](#), 2/16/14)

QUESTIONS FOR RYAN ZINKE

Political Vulnerabilities

Criticisms of President-elect

Background: Zinke has been generally supportive of the President-elect, however in October 2016 Zinke said the President-elect “should be ashamed” of his comments released on a 2005 Access Hollywood video.

- **Given the tumultuous nature of this campaign season, would you commit to standing by the President and express full public support during turbulent periods should you serve in the administration?**
- **Do you have any specific reservations to putting full support behind the President-elect’s issues agenda and policy platform?**

Controversies while Serving

Background: During Zinke’s tenure as a Navy Seal, Zinke was accused at least twice of misusing taxpayer funds for personal travel. Zinke is said to have settled any and all accusations of misappropriated funds.

- **At any point during your public career do you think you misused taxpayer funds or used poor judgement when using taxpayer funded resources?**

Support for the Current Free Trade Agreements

Background: Zinke voted in favor of Trade Promotion Authority in 2015, which can be viewed as a first step to passing the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

- **Are you willing to support the President-elect’s plan to renegotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or completely pull out of it?**
- **Are you willing to assist with renegotiation of the agreement, and other U.S. trade agreements, if called upon by the President-elect?**
- **Will you support all of the President-elect’s positions on current U.S. free trade agreements?**

Policy Questions

General Department of the Interior Policy

- **What is your general philosophy when it comes to the use of federal lands for energy production?**
- **How would you view the opportunity to either create or reduce the number of national parks and federal monuments, and would you advise the President in either direction?**
- **What new initiatives would you hope to pursue, and would you change or dismantle any of the ones put in place by the Obama administration?**
- **A significant priority of the Department of the Interior is working with Native American communities across the country to ensure their needs are met. How would you further deepen these ties and ensure that these communities are taken care of?**
- **The Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management are working on “New Energy For America” which provides sites for renewable energy construction on public**

lands. Would you advise the President-elect to continue this program, and if so what new regulations and areas for growth do you believe as possible for this program?

- **Currently, California and other major western states have had significant water shortage and drought problems. What policies would you implement to address these issues and ensure that moving forward these states do not face the same challenges they do now?**

BACKGROUND

Personal Information

Ryan K. Zinke

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education

National University MBA, Finance, Business Administration, Management And Operations - 1991
San Diego, California

AND

University of Oregon Bachelor's, Geology - 1984
Eugene, Oregon

AND

University of San Diego Masters, Global Leadership
San Diego, California ([LinkedIn](#) Accessed 12/12/16)

Work Experience

2015 – Present: U.S. House Of Representatives Representative From Montana's At-Large District
([LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/12/16)

December 2012 – 2014: Save The World Air Inc. Member Of The Board Of Directors ([Save The World Air](#),
12/14/12 [Securities And Exchange Commission](#) 11/6/14)

2009 – 2011: Montana State Senate State Senator And Chair Of The Senate Education Committee
([Congressman Ryan Zinke](#), Accessed 12/12/16)

August 2005 – October 2007: Continental Divide International CEO ([LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/12/16)

1985 – 2008: U.S. Navy SEAL Team Leader, Ground Force Commander, Task Force Commander,
Current Operations Officer In Support Of National Command Authority Missions, And "Dean" Of The
Naval Special Warfare Graduate School. ([Congressman Ryan Zinke](#) Accessed 12/12/16)

Political Affiliation

According To Nexis, Ryan Zinke Is Not A Registered Voter. (Nexis, Accessed 12/12/16)

**According To GOP Data Center, Ryan Zinke Is Registered As An Unaffiliated Voter And Classified
As A Hard Republican.** (GOP Data Center, Accessed 12/12/16)

VOTER INFO

Registration Status
Registered

Registration Date
9/20/1988

Official Party
Unaffiliated

Observed Party
0-Unidentified

Calculated Party
1 - Hard Republican

Political Contributions

No Relevant Records Found. ([Federal Election Commission](#), Accessed 12/12/16)

ZINKE, RYAN		SELF	BUSINESS OWNER	MONTANA REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE	06/09/2009	230.00	29993402452
-------------	--	------	----------------	--	------------	--------	-----------------------------

Lobbying

No Records Found. ([Senate Lobbying Disclosure Act Database](#) Accessed 12/12/16)

You searched for:
Lobbyist Name: Zinke, Ryan

No Records Found

Revolving Door

No Records Found. (Center For Responsive Politics, Accessed 12/12/16)

Revolving Door : Search Results

No records found. Please, go back to the [search page](#) and try again.

Bankruptcy

No Records Found. (Lexis, Accessed 12/12/16)

Bankruptcy Information - 0 records found

Liens

No Records Found. (Lexis, Accessed 12/12/16)

☐ **Judgments/Liens - 0 records found**

☐ **UCC Liens - 0 records found**

COMMENTS ON TRUMP-PENCE

Trump

Zinke Said He Would Not Have Called The President Of Taiwan As Trump Did

Zinke Said “I Would Not Have Made That Call” When Asked About Trump’s Call With The President Of Taiwan. CNN’S ERIN BURNETT: “Congressman, I want to ask one question before we go here on the breaking news tonight. Donald Trump on a phone call with the president of Taiwan, something no U.S. president has done in 37 years. Democratic Senator Murphy saying this is how wars start. Multiple members of the George W. Bush’s foreign policy team saying this is a major breach and should not have happened. A major mistake. What do you say?” REP. RYAN ZINKE (R-MT): “Well, I don’t believe this will lead to war. And certainly China has been aggressive in the South Pacific, building islands and fortifying them. I would not have made that call. But the president has clearly a different agenda. I don’t think it will result to war. But what I do think that China itself has been enormously aggressive too.” (CNN’s “Out Front With Erin Burnett,” 12/2/16)

Zinke Said That Both Presidential Candidates Were “Fundamentally Flawed”

Zinke Said That Both Clinton And Trump Are “Fundamentally Flawed,” Adding “You Can’t Defend Trump. He’s Un-Defendable.” “In an interview Monday, Montana’s lone Congressman reaffirmed his support for Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, while acknowledging that both of the major candidates in the race are ‘fundamentally flawed.’ ‘There’s a sense of anger, there’s a sense that our government has become detached and too far away from people,’ Rep. Ryan Zinke said in meeting with the Daily Inter Lake’s editorial board. He added later, ‘You can’t defend Trump. He’s un-defendable, ... not that that makes Hillary [Clinton] a better candidate.’” (Sam Wilson, “Zinke Reaffirms Support For Trump Presidency,” [Daily Inter Lake \[Kalispell Montana\]](#), 10/26/16)

Zinke Said That Both Trump And Clinton Had Said “Regrettable Things To Military Families”

Zinke Called On Trump And Clinton To Apologize For Using American Families’ Who Have Lost A Member In Service. “Zinke, a former Navy Seal commander, was asked Tuesday in Havre about his response to Trump’s remarks. ‘I think it is shameful that it is being used as a political tool on both sides. I think America is better than that,’ Zinke said. On a Facebook page posted later Tuesday, Zinke said both candidates have said ‘regrettable things to military families.’ ‘Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton should swallow their pride and apologize to the families and service members they have offended. Politics has no role in the military,’ Zinke said.” (Alex Ross, “Daines, Zinke Respond To Worries About Trump,” [Havre \[Montana\] Daily News](#) 8/5/16)

In An Op-Ed, Zinke Said That Clinton And Trump Both Said “Extremely Regrettable Things To The Families Of Service Members” And “We Cannot Allow This To Become The Norm, And We Cannot Allow It To Go Without Notice.” “Both of our candidates for president have picked fights with and said extremely regrettable things to the families of service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great nation. As a grateful nation, we cannot allow this to become the norm, and we cannot allow it

to go without notice. Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton should swallow their pride and apologize to the families and service members they have offended. Politics has no role in the military.” (Rep. Ryan Zinke, “Candidates Should Keep Politics Out Of The Military,” [Great Falls \[Montana\] Tribune](#) 8/10/16)

When Asked About Trump’s Comments About The Khan Family, Zinke Said “No One Should Attack A Gold Star Family.” CNN’S CAROL COSTELLO: “So, congressman, you know that whole thing with the Khan family, it still lives. Or in your mind, does it?” REP. RYAN ZINKE (R-MT): “Well, no one should attack a gold star family. To include Mrs. Clinton lying to Mrs. Smith who, you know, her son lost his life, unfortunately, in Benghazi. So I think -- I think in this, both sides are wrong. I think we should respect our gold star families. And, look, you know, as a military person, I fought with the individuals next to me. I didn’t care whether they were Republican, Democrat, Muslim, Christian. What I cared about is the merit of the person and the commitment to our mission and the love of our country. And I think we should leave it at that and look at the serious issues that face our country. You know, on national defense, we’re going to have to look at immigration, vetting of our refugees, and look at securing our borders, too.” (CNN’s “Newsroom,” 9/28/16)

Zinke Said The He Does Not Agree With Trump On A Number Of Issues

Zinke Said “I Certainly Do Not Agree With Mr. Trump On A Lot Of Issues.” “Since Trump became the GOP’s official nominee, Zinke has focused less on his support of Trump and more on railing against the alternative, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. ‘I certainly do not agree with Mr. Trump on a lot of issues,’ Zinke said. ‘But Secretary Clinton lied to the American people on multiple occasions, and the number of lies just keeps going. America is upset over the lack of transparency, and to a degree Mr. Trump is a reflection of that widespread anti-Washington rhetoric. I think we need to shake it up.’” (Regan Colyer, “U.S. Representative Campaign,” [Sidney \[Montana\] Herald](#) 10/25/16)

Zinke Condemned Trump’s Comments About Women In A 2005 Tape

Zinke Said Of Trump’s 2005 Comments From An Access Hollywood Tape That “The Language Is Shocking And Wrong, And Should Not Be Used, Ever.” “Juneau, a Democrat, is challenging Republican Zinke for Montana’s lone congressional seat. Trump, the GOP candidate for president, recently bragged about grabbing women on a videotape from 2005. Zinke condemned Trump’s comments, but still supports Trump for president. ‘The language is shocking and wrong, and should never be used, ever,’ Zinke said in a statement earlier this month. ‘My wife, Lola, and I have talked about it, and we pray he (Trump) has grown from his mistake.’” (Chris Peterson, “Juneau Says Zinke Trump Controversy Helping Her,” [Hungry Horse News \[Columbia Falls Montana\]](#), 10/21/16)

Zinke Referred To Trump As An “Equal Opportunity Offender”

Zinke Called Trump An “Equal Opportunity Offender,” Saying “I Don’t Think He Offends Women Any More Than He Offends Anyone Else.” “The Montana Democratic Party on Friday night released on YouTube the video with clips of Zinke’s appearance at the Gazette’s editorial board cut in. In the clips, Zinke said ‘I think Mr. Trump has been an equal opportunity offender. I don’t think he offends women any more than he offends anyone else.’” (“Holly Michels, “Zinke Says Trump’s Comments On Women ‘Wrong, But Will Not Vote For Clinton,” [Billings \[Montana\] Gazette](#), 10/8/16)

Zinke’s Spokesperson Said That The Congressman Disagrees With Trump’s Vow To Deport Immigrants

Zinke’s Spokesperson Said That He Disagreed With Trump On Deporting Immigrants. “Rep. Zinke would never support Mrs. Clinton and her anti-coal, anti-gun, anti-military policies, and will be looking carefully at who the presumptive nominee surrounds himself with as advisers,’ said Heather Swift, his

communications director. Asked to name an issue where Zinke disagrees with Trump, Swift cited the businessman's vow to deport immigrants." (Christopher Doering, "Daines, Zinke Reluctant To Discuss Trump," [USA Today](#) 5/11/16)

Pence

No Records Found.

GENERAL CONTROVERSY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Questions Have Been Raised About Zinke's Navy Record, Including Claims That He Exaggerated His Roles And Misused Navy Funds

Retired Navy SEAL Captain Larry Bailey, The Former Commanding Officer Of The Facility Where Zinke Received His Early SEAL Training, Publicly Accused Zinke Of Misusing U.S. Navy Travel Funds For Personal Travel. "A former Navy officer who accused Republican U.S. House candidate and former Navy SEAL officer Ryan Zinke of misleading the public about his military record stood by his allegations the day after Zinke called questions about his record 'unjust, unfair and shameless.' Zinke has made his service as a Navy SEAL the central focus of his bid for the U.S. House in the race against Democrat John Lewis and Libertarian Mike Fellows. At a debate in Great Falls on Tuesday between all three candidates, Zinke bristled at a question regarding a personnel file that one former Navy officer said calls Zinke's narrative about his flawless service record into question. Retired Navy SEAL Capt. Larry W.

Bailey was the former commanding officer of the Naval Special Warfare Center, where Zinke received his early SEAL training. Earlier this year, Bailey publicly accused Zinke of inappropriately using Navy travel funds for personal travel, an allegation Zinke admitted but said was a mistake.” (John S. Adams, “Former Navy Officer Stands By Statements Against Zinke,” [Great Falls \[Montana\] Tribune](#) 12/23/14)

- **Zinke Said That The Misappropriation Of Funds Was A Mistake And That He Settled The Issues By Repaying The \$211 In Funds.** “Earlier this year, Bailey publicly accused Zinke of inappropriately using Navy travel funds for personal travel, an allegation Zinke admitted but said was a mistake. Zinke later told The Associated Press the disputed travel claim was for a \$211 plane ticket to Montana when he was a junior officer. He said he paid the money back and the issue was settled.” (John S. Adams, “Former Navy Officer Stands By Statements Against Zinke,” [Great Falls \[Montana\] Tribune](#), 12/23/14)
- **There Was A Second Travel Record Discrepancy That Was Resolved Without Zinke Paying Reimbursement.** “The former Navy SEAL previously said one involved a \$211 plane ticket to Montana for which he was reimbursed but then paid back. Last week, Zinke said the travel discrepancy arose from a seven-year audit of his travel expenses in 1999 after someone complained about his travel to Montana to scout for SEAL training locations. Zinke campaign spokeswoman Shelby DeMars said the other dispute involved Zinke traveling from training in Washington state to his Whitefish home and it didn't require reimbursement.” (Lisa Baumann, “House Candidate Zinke Releases Military Record,” [Great Falls \[Montana\] Tribune](#) 10/27/14)

Zinke Released His Military Records In Response To Requests And Accusations From Opponents.

“Republican U.S. House candidate Ryan Zinke produced a military record Monday that opponents have been calling for since this summer. The 1999 report gives Zinke declining marks in two areas for lapses of judgment, and says Zinke's performance greatly exceeded standards in four other areas. The report says the lapses were related to two travel reimbursement issues, but doesn't provide further detail.” (Lisa Baumann, “House Candidate Zinke Releases Military Record,” [Great Falls \[Montana\] Tribune](#), 10/27/14)

- **Zinke's Military Report Showed Declining Marks In Two Areas For Lapses In Judgement And Marks That Exceeded Standards In Four Other Areas.** “The 1999 report gives Zinke declining marks in two areas for lapses of judgment, and says Zinke's performance greatly exceeded standards in four other areas. The report says the lapses were related to two travel reimbursement issues, but doesn't provide further detail.” (Lisa Baumann, “House Candidate Zinke Releases Military Record,” [Great Falls \[Montana\] Tribune](#), 10/27/14)

Questions Have Been Raised Over Zinke's Residency

Democrats Have Targeted Zinke For Having Stronger Ties To California Than Montana. “Democrats started pegging Zinke as having more ties to California than Montana in 2014, when Zinke ran against John Lewis, a former aide to then-Sen. Max Baucus. In a debate in June that year Lewis said Zinke lived in California, to which Zinke responded with his Whitefish address 409 Second St. W.” (Jayme Fraser and Holly Michels, “Zinke Decries Attacks On His Montana Residency,” [Independent Record \[Helena Montana\]](#), 10/23/16)

- **In Response, Zinke Provided A Montana Address That Is Now Owned By Continental Divide International, “A Trust Of Sorts Created By Zinke.”** “In a debate in June that year Lewis said Zinke lived in California, to which Zinke responded with his Whitefish address 409 Second St. W. That address is now owned by Continental Divide International, a trust of sorts created by Zinke, who also owns two other nearby parcels. Zinke said he bought the property from his mother, who inherited it from his grandparents.” (Jayme Fraser and Holly Michels, “Zinke Decries Attacks On His Montana Residency,” [Independent Record \[Helena Montana\]](#), 10/23/16)

In 2016, The Santa Barbara Independent Newspaper Reported That Zinke And His Wife Were “Part-Time Santa Barbara” Residents. “This summer, the Santa Barbara Independent newspaper wrote

a story saying Zinke's wife was a part-time Santa Barbara resident, and called Zinke a part-time resident in a headline before later changing it. The same paper wrote a column in 2014 saying Zinke had campaign signs posted in the Hope Ranch suburb of that town.” (Jayme Fraser and Holly Michels, “Zinke Decries Attacks On His Montana Residency,” [Independent Record \[Helena Montana\]](#) 10/23/16)

- **It Was Also Reported That The Couple Hosted A Fundraiser In Their California Home To Support California Congressional Candidate Justin Fareed.** “The paper also reported on an invitation for a campaign fundraiser to support congressional candidate Justin Fareed ‘at the home of Lola and Congressman Ryan Zinke.’ Swift said that invitation was sent out without approval by Zinke, who does not own or rent any property in the state. The fundraiser was held at the home of Lola's mother, she said.” (Jayme Fraser and Holly Michels, “Zinke Decries Attacks On His Montana Residency,” [Independent Record \[Helena Montana\]](#) 10/23/16)
- **The Campaign Said The Fundraiser Was Held At The Home Of Zinke’s Mother-In-Law.** “The paper also reported on an invitation for a campaign fundraiser to support congressional candidate Justin Fareed ‘at the home of Lola and Congressman Ryan Zinke.’ Swift said that invitation was sent out without approval by Zinke, who does not own or rent any property in the state. The fundraiser was held at the home of Lola's mother, she said.” (Jayme Fraser and Holly Michels, “Zinke Decries Attacks On His Montana Residency,” [Independent Record \[Helena Montana\]](#) 10/23/16)
- **Zinke Said His Ties To The State Of California Were In Connection With His Military Career As Well As His Wife’s Family And Her Decision To Care For Her Aging Mother.** “At the time, Zinke said his wife is from Santa Barbara and moved there to care for her aging mother, who died Thursday... There is no question that Zinke spent years in the Golden State. ‘(I lived in San Diego) when I was stationed in the U.S. Military. Under orders. Active duty,’ he said, also acknowledging that these days when he goes to the state it is for the usual sort of trips to visit relatives. ‘My ties have to do with my wife’s family. It is a longtime Santa Barbara family. My wife is the only child.’” (Jayme Fraser and Holly Michels, “Zinke Decries Attacks On His Montana Residency,” [Independent Record \[Helena Montana\]](#) 10/23/16)

Zinke: “I Never Claimed A California Residence. Ever.” “I never claimed a California residence. Ever. I’ve never applied for a California driver’s license,’ he said, questioning how his time stationed there was any different than his stints deployed overseas.” (Jayme Fraser and Holly Michels, “Zinke Decries Attacks On His Montana Residency,” [Independent Record \[Helena Montana\]](#) 10/23/16)

Zinke Has Called Hillary Clinton The “Anti-Christ”

While Running For Congress In 2014, Zinke Called Hillary Clinton The “Anti-Christ,” Referring To Her As “The Real Enemy.” “Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL and state senator who is now running for Congress in Montana, said during a campaign stop this week that he is worried the country is losing sight of the real threat to the nation: Hillary Clinton. ‘We need to focus on the real enemy,’ said Zinke last week, referring to Clinton, according to the Bigfork Eagle. He also called the former Secretary of State the ‘anti-Christ.’” (Amanda Terkel, “Ryan Zinke, GOP House Candidate, Calls Hillary Clinton The ‘Anti Christ,’” [The Huffington Post](#) 2/4/14)

- **Shortly After, Zinke Walked Back The Comparison Saying It Was “Perhaps A Little Harsh.”** “In an interview with the Daily Inter Lake, Zinke said he doesn’t really believe she’s the anti-Christ, although he still is critical of her time as secretary of state due to the deaths of four Americans in a terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. ‘I would say this: It was perhaps a little harsh,’ said Zinke, a retired Navy SEAL and former Montana state senator. ‘But I had two friends in Benghazi and the truth does matter.’” (Amanda Terkel, “Ryan Zinke, GOP House Candidate, Says He Was Too ‘Harsh’ Comparing Hillary Clinton To The Anti Christ,” [The Huffington Post](#) 2/4/16)

Zinke Joked About Waterboarding

In October 2014, Zinke Made A Joke About Waterboarding Prior To A Debate, Saying His Opponent “Plays Guitar...I Waterboard People.” “Backstage before a debate between the two main candidates vying for Montana’s lone seat in the U.S. House, the moderator joked with John Lewis, the Democrat, asking whether he had brought his guitar to perform. The Republican, Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, chimed in with his own brand of humor. ‘John plays guitar’ he said. ‘I waterboard people.’ The comment was simply a joke, Zinke said in an email, though he acknowledged that waterboarding was part of his training. Still, the remark captures how he has tried to frame the race: a tough, decorated Navy officer versus a Washington, D.C., errand boy.” (Alan Zerembo, “Does Being A Veteran Help Candidates? A Montana Politician Hopes So,” [Los Angeles Times](#) 10/24/14)

CONTROVERSIAL POLICY STANCES/STATEMENTS

While Campaigning For Congress, Zinke Called For Obama’s Impeachment

In 2014, Zinke Said He Was Confident Republicans Would Win Back The House And Senate, Adding He Hopes They Would Have The Votes To Impeach Obama. “Zinke added that he was confident Republicans would win back the House and the Senate in the fall midterm elections, meaning the party would be better positioned to find answers to these questions. ‘And then I do believe we can put the president on the run. He’s had six years of doing his will to this country, and I believe that’s intentional dismantling of American power both domestically and abroad,’ said Zinke. ‘So is impeachment in the cards? Let’s hope we have the votes.’” (Amanda Terkel, “Montana GOP Candidates Push For Obama Impeachment,” [The Huffington Post](#) 6/2/14)

Zinke Voted In Favor Of Trade Promotion Authority

Zinke Voted In Favor Of Trade Promotion Authority. (H.R.1314, [Roll Call Vote # 362](#) Adopted 219 211 R 191 54 D 28 157, 6/12/15)

Zinke Said That He Was Proud To Vote For Trade Promotion Authority. “Global trade is critical to Montana’s economy and to our national defense, which is why, as an elected official who is accountable to Montanans. I could not support the Senate version of TPA without making major changes to make it more transparent. After months of consulting with Montana’s agriculture, manufacturing and labor community, it became clear we needed to work together to find a solution that ensures American trade grows, our economy prospers, and we have good paying jobs in the future. In Montana alone, more than 137,000 jobs are supported by global trade; we export more wheat than almost every other state, and coal on the Crow Nation is valued at \$1.5 billion dollars in the Pacific Rim markets. I am proud to join Senator Daines, the Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana Grain Growers, Stockgrowers and others, in ensuring fair trade for Montana businesses, farmers and ranchers.” (“TPA Ag Community, Senator Daines, Chamber of Commerce, Conservatives, Defense Experts Applaud Zinke Amendment and Vote for More Transparent TPA,” [Congressman Ryan Zinke](#) 6/16/15)

“Zinke Previously Opposed Fast-Track Authority For Obama.” “Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke has reversed course on giving President Barack Obama authority to fast track free trade agreements but only after getting the ayes in the negotiating room from Congress. Montana’s lone House representative, Zinke previously opposed fast-track authority for Obama, saying he didn’t trust the president to negotiate a good deal for the United States.” (Tom Lutey, “Zinke Changes Course, Supports Presidential Trade Authority,” [The Associated Press](#) 6/13/15)

In 2016, Zinke Resigned His Position As A Delegate To The Republican National Convention Because Of The Platform’s Stance On The Transfer Of Federal Lands To States

In July 2016, Zinke Resigned A Position As A Delegate To The Republican National Convention Because Of The GOP Platform’s Stance On The Transfer Of Federal Public Lands To The State. “U.S.

Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., has resigned as a delegate to the Republican nominating convention because of the party's position on the transfer of federal public lands to the states. Montana's lone congressman, Zinke told *The Gazette* he withdrew after the Republican platform committee endorsed transferring federal lands. Zinke made his resignation public Friday. The decision was official a few days ago. 'What I saw was a platform that was more divisive than uniting,' Zinke said. 'At this point, I think it's better to show leadership.' The GOP draft platform reads: 'Congress shall immediately pass universal legislation providing a timely and orderly mechanism requiring the federal government to convey certain federally controlled public lands to the states. We call upon all national and state leaders and representatives to exert their utmost power of influence to urge the transfer of those lands identified.'" (Tom Lutey, "Zinke Resigns Delegate Post Over Public Lands Disagreement Still Will Speak At RNC," [Billings Gazette](#) 7/15/16)

- **Zinke Took A Similar Stance To Trump Saying He Doesn't Support Transferring Lands To The States.** "Zinke said he supports better management of federal land but doesn't support transferring those lands to the states. Surrogates for both presidential candidates, Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump, have said the presumptive nominees won't support a transfer of federal lands. 'Quite frankly, most Republicans don't agree with it and most Montanans don't agree with it,' Zinke said of transferring federal lands to the states. 'What we do agree on is better management.'" (Tom Lutey, "Zinke Resigns Delegate Post Over Public Lands Disagreement Still Will Speak At RNC," [Billings Gazette](#), 7/15/16)

Zinke Has Been Accused Of Having A Pro-Choice Record While In The Montana Senate

NARAL Pro-Choice Montana Gave Zinke A 65 Percent Score In 2009. "65 percent score from a group that advocates for a woman's right to abortion, NARAL Pro-Choice Montana, in the 2009 Legislature. Two years later, this abortion-rights group gave Zinke a zero in its scorecard." (Charles S. Johnson, "Zinke's Abortion Votes Draw Criticism," [The Montana Standard](#) 5/4/14)

- **Zinke Received Points From NARAL For Voting Against A "Personhood" Bill In The Montana Senate In 2009, Which A Representative From Montana Right To Life Said He Advised Zinke To Do.** "In the voting records, Zinke received positive points from NARAL Pro-Choice Montana for his opposition in 2009 to so-called 'personhood' bills. These bills would have defined in the Montana Constitution that life begins at conception, thus banning abortion. Trude, of Montana Right to Life Association, said he urged Zinke to oppose the 'personhood' bills." (Charles S. Johnson, "Zinke's Abortion Votes Draw Criticism," [The Montana Standard](#) 5/4/14)

According To Three Montana Representatives From Concerned Women For America, In A 2014 Meeting Zinke Repeatedly Asserted That He Supported Abortion For The First 20 Weeks Of A Pregnancy. "In addition, three Billings women representing the Montana Legislative Action Fund of the Concerned Women for America, a conservative group, told the State Bureau in recent individual interviews that they met with Zinke at his Billings office March 11. They said they were stunned when Zinke three times told them he supported legalized abortions during a woman's first 20 weeks of pregnancy. 'When given the opportunity to elaborate on his statement, he offered no other stipulation that would prevent him from supporting abortions up to 20 weeks,' said Kari Zeier, state director of Concerned Women for America. She said the group does not make endorsements." (Charles S. Johnson, "Zinke's Abortion Votes Draw Criticism," [The Montana Standard](#) 5/4/14)

- **Zinke Asserted That The Women Took His Comments Out Of Context.** "Zinke disputed the women's interpretation of the conversation, as did his political director, former state Rep. Randy Vogel, R-Billings, who sat in on the meeting. They took Zinke's comments out of context, Vogel said." (Charles S. Johnson, "Zinke's Abortion Votes Draw Criticism," [The Montana Standard](#) 5/4/14)

Zinke Made Comments Suggesting Some Veterans Get Trapped In “Economic Slavery” With Their Federal Benefits

At A Meeting With Veterans In March 2016, Zinke Where He Suggested That Some Veterans May Get Trapped In “Economic Slavery” With Federal Benefits. “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke told veterans Tuesday to be wary of becoming overly dependent on government services and to help each other rise up. Speaking to a small group of veterans in Billings, Zinke said as a veteran he worries about the ‘economic slavery’ of government services and spoke specifically about the Department of Veterans Affairs. He said veterans who need care for problems like post-traumatic stress disorder need therapy and more. They need to be working toward obtaining jobs, he said, and should be required to accomplish both. Zinke called the issue a taboo subject in Congress, where lawmakers fear saying anything critical of veterans. He said the discussion needs to happen nonetheless.” (Tom Lutey, “Zinke To Veterans Be Wary Of Dependence On Government Services,” [Billings \[Montana\] Gazette](#), 3/29/16)

Zinke: “I Want To Make Sure Veterans Get Everything They Need...There’s A Difference Between The Economic Slavery Of Being Trapped In Poverty And Moving Into Being Part Of The Community That We Need The Veterans To Be A Part Of.” ““This is where being a veteran matters,’ Zinke said, ‘because no one cares more about veterans than I do. I want to make sure veterans get everything they need. I want to make sure they get everything they need to be productive members of society. And there’s a difference between the economic slavery of being trapped in poverty and moving into being part of the community that we need the veterans to be a part of.” (Tom Lutey, “Zinke To Veterans Be Wary Of Dependence On Government Services,” [Billings \[Montana\] Gazette](#), 3/29/16)

Zinke Voted To Remove A Ban On Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC)

In 2016, Zinke Voted In Favor Of An Amendment That Would Have Removed A Ban On Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) In Congress’ Annual Defense Appropriations Bill. “But Zinke also voted to lift the congressional ban on closing military bases. House Amendment 1189 by Rep. Beto O’Rourke, D-Texas, would have deleted the section of the defense spending bill that prevents the ‘use of funds for proposing, planning, or executing a new Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.’ According to a Defense Department letter delivered to Congress earlier this month, “the Department has 22 percent infrastructure excess.” But it has been 14 years since Congress allowed the BRAC commission to do its work. Zinke voted in favor of O’Rourke’s amendment, along with 30 Republicans and 127 Democrats. The amendment failed.” (Troy Carter, “Zinke Supported \$576 Billion Defense Budget And Failed Base Closure Amendment,” [Bozeman \[Montana\] Daily Chronicle](#) 6/20/16)

Zinke’s Spokeswoman Said He Believes In Cutting Waste And Justified The Vote By Saying Zinke Isn’t Worried About A Base In Montana Being Shuttered. “A spokeswoman for Zinke said he believes that waste should be cut. But she also said he isn’t worried that Malmstrom would be among those shuttered if Congress authorized another round of closures. ‘Barring all BRAC disallows DOD from cutting any non-essential bases or property that aren’t critical to the mission,’ said Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift. ‘Ryan is confident that the missile mission at Malmstrom is essential to our triad and the Air Force has said on the record that it is critical as well.’” (Troy Carter, “Zinke Supported \$576 Billion Defense Budget And Failed Base Closure Amendment,” [Bozeman \[Montana\] Daily Chronicle](#), 6/20/16)

Comments On Radical Islam

Following The Orlando Massacre, Zinke Said Radical Islamic Terrorism “Is As Much A War Within Islam As It Is A War Against The West.” “Rep. Ryan Zinke, meanwhile, said America needs to change course: ‘Radical Islamic terrorism is as much a war within Islam as it is a war against the West, and it will take a global coalition with Middle Eastern stakeholders and American leadership to stop it at its source.

We must also do more here at home to stop individuals who have been radicalized before they act.” (Bart Pfankuch, “Their Orlando Shooting Reveals Dangers Of Hatred,” *The Rapid City Journal*, 6/23/16)

Zinke Said He Saw Success In Iraq “Because We Formed A Coalition Of Islamic States And Local Sunni And Kurdish Tribes.” “While I was serving in Iraq, we were successful because we formed a coalition of Islamic states and local Sunni and Kurdish tribes. The United States needs to begin the same process today. The fight against ISIS needs to be powered locally but heavily supported by the United States.” (Rep. Ryan Zinke, “A War Plan Without A Road To Victory,” *The Washington Times* 2/15/15)

Zinke Favored Halting The U.S.’ Syrian Refugee Program Until The Vetting Process Improved. “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., wants to block Syrian refugees from entering the United States until screening can be tightened...’In the case of the Syrian refugees, most of them are male. Most of them are of military age, and yes, it is a significant security issue in that a background check is only as good as the authorities have information on them,’ Zinke said in a press release. ‘But when you have a background check and you don’t know their background, you don’t know what they’ve done, it is enormously dangerous in the interest of our national security to accept potential terrorists. ISIS said, and now they have proven, they will use this chaos to infiltrate ISIS members in the refugee population.” (Tom Lutey, “Rep. Zinke Attempts To Block Syrian Refugees From The U.S.,” *The Billings [Montana] Gazette* 11/16/15)

Zinke Supports Requiring Women To Register For The Draft

Zinke Was The Only Cosponsor Of The Draft America's Daughters Act of 2016, Which Would Require Women To Register For The Armed Services Draft. “Today, U.S. Representative Duncan Hunter, a Marine Corps veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, introduced legislation to require that women register for the selective service. The legislation, titled the Draft America’s Daughters Act, requires registration for women no later than 90 days after the enactment of the measure or 90 days after the Secretary of Defense opens all combat specialties. Hunter is joined by U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke in introducing the bill, which comes on the heels of recent statements by the leaders of the Marine Corps and the Army that women should register for the draft.” (“Reps. Hunter & Zinke Introduce Legislation Requiring Women To Register For Draft,” *Congressman Duncan Hunter* 2/4/16)

Zinke Said That Women Play An Invaluable Role In War And That The Legislation “Opens Young Women Up To The Draft.” “‘I know women play an invaluable role in war. My daughter was a damn good Navy diver,’ Zinke said in a prepared statement. ‘Many times women can gain access to strategic sites that men never could. However, this administration’s plan to force all front-line combat positions and Special Forces to integrate women into their units is reckless and dangerous. The decision was made by the administration against the advice of the U.S. Marine Corps and Special Forces.’ ‘The natural conclusion of that policy is that this opens young women up to the draft,’ Zinke said. ‘This is a very important issue that touches the heart of American family, and I believe we need to have an open and honest discussion about it.” (Troy Carter, “Zinke Introduces Bill Requiring Women To Enter Draft,” *Bozeman [Montana] Daily Chronicle* 2/4/16)

BUSINESSES/ASSOCIATIONS

Continental Divide International, LLC

In 2013, Zinke Made \$40,000 In Salary From Continental Divide, Described As “A Security Consulting Firm Where He Has Been CEO.” “He was paid \$52,000 in salary by On Point Montana, a security consulting firm where he has been CEO, and \$40,000 in salary from Continental Divide International, a business development company where he has been CEO.” (Charles S. Johnson, “U.S. House Candidate Zinke Amasses More Wealth Than Lewis,” *Missoulian [Missoula Montana]* 7/16/14)

- **Continental Divide International Has Also Been Described As “A Trust Of Sorts Created By Zinke.”** “In a debate in June that year Lewis said Zinke lived in California, to which Zinke responded with his Whitefish address 409 Second St. W. That address is now owned by Continental Divide International, a trust of sorts created by Zinke, who also owns two other nearby parcels. Zinke said he bought the property from his mother, who inherited it from his grandparents.” (Jayme Fraser and Holly Michels, “Zinke Decries Attacks On His Montana Residency,” [Independent Record \[Helena Montana\]](#), 10/23/16)

Continental Dividde International, LLC Was Set Up In 2005. (Lexis, Accessed 12/12/16)

Corporate Filing	
Business Information	
Filing Number:	C141870
Name:	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE INTERNATIONAL, LLC
Name Type:	LEGAL
Standard Business Address:	[REDACTED]
Original Business Address:	[REDACTED]
Business Type:	DOMESTIC LTD LIABILITY COMPANY
Status:	ACTIVE
Place Incorporated:	MONTANA
Date Incorporated:	03/22/2005
Foreign/Domestic:	DOMESTIC
Business Entity:	ANY LAWFUL BUSINESS
Additional Information:	REINSTATE DATE: 01/17/2007
Purpose:	LLC MANAGED BY MEMBER/MANAGERS
Date Last Seen:	08/22/2016

Zinke Was Listed As An Officer Of The Company, Along With Several Of His Family Members. (Lexis, Accessed 12/12/16)

Officers			
Name	Date(s)	Standardized Address	Original Address
DETLEFSEN, JENNIFER Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER		Type: CONTACT [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
ZINKE, KONRAD Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER		Type: CONTACT [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
ZINKE, LOLITA C Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER		Type: CONTACT [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
ZINKE, RYAN K Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER		Type: CONTACT [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
ZINKE, WOLFGANG Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER		Type: CONTACT [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Save The World Air

Zinke Joined The Board Of Directors Of Save The World Air, Inc. (STWA) In December 2012 And Resigned His Seat On The Board On January 1, 2015. (“Montana State Senator Ryan Zinke Joins STWA s Board Of Directors,” [Save The World Air](#) 12/14/12 Form 8 K, [Securities And Exchange Commission](#) 11/6/14)

- **Save The World Air Changed Its Name In August 2015 To “QS Energy.”** “STWA (the ‘Company’) (OTCQX: ZERO), a developer of integrated technology solutions for the energy industry, today announced that it has changed its corporate name to QS Energy, Inc., and its stock symbol from ‘ZERO’ to ‘QSEP’ (OTCQX: QSEP), effective immediately.” (Press Release, “Save The World Air, Inc. D/B/A STWA Announces Corporate Name Change To QS Energy, Inc.,” [QS Energy](#) 8/11/15)

When Zinke Joined The Board Of Directors, STWA Described Itself As A Company That Developed And Commercialized “Energy Efficiency Technologies,” Including Technology “Designed To Improve Oil Flow Through Pipelines.” “STWA, Inc. develops and commercializes energy efficiency technologies that assist in meeting increasing global energy demands, improving the economics of oil extraction and transport, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Company's intellectual property portfolio includes 41 domestic and international patents and patents pending, which have been developed in conjunction with and exclusively licensed from Temple University. STWA's technologies include Applied Oil Technology™ (AOT™), which is designed to improve oil flow through pipelines. AOT™ has been proven in U.S. Department of Energy tests to increase the energy efficiency of oil pipeline pump stations.” (“Montana State Senator Ryan Zinke Joins STWA s Board Of Directors,” [Save The World Air](#) 12/14/12)

In 2013, Zinke Made \$85,000 In His Role As A Director For STWA. “Zinke made \$85,000 as his fee as a director for STWA, a Santa Barbara, California, company that develops and sells commercial flow assurance solutions designed to help benefit the global energy industry.” (Charles S. Johnson, “U.S. House Candidate Zinke Amasses More Wealth Than Lewis,” [Missoulian \[Missoula Montana\]](#), 7/16/14)

On Point Montana

According To Financial Disclosures, In 2013 Zinke Made \$52,000 In Salary From On Point Montana, Which Was Described As “A Security Consulting Firm Where He Has Been CEO.” “He was paid \$52,000 in salary by On Point Montana, a security consulting firm where he has been CEO, and \$40,000 in salary from Continental Divide International, a business development company where he has been CEO.” (Charles S. Johnson, “U.S. House Candidate Zinke Amasses More Wealth Than Lewis,” [Missoulian \[Missoula Montana\]](#), 7/16/14)

In 2009, On Point Montana, LLC Was Registered With The Montana Secretary Of State’s Office. (Lexis, Accessed 12/12/16)

Corporate Filing	
Business Information	
Filing Number:	C200022
Name:	ON POINT MONTANA, LLC
Name Type:	LEGAL
Standard Business Address:	[REDACTED]
Original Business Address:	[REDACTED]
Business Type:	DOMESTIC LTD LIABILITY COMPANY
Status:	ACTIVE
Place Incorporated:	MONTANA
Date Incorporated:	12/07/2009
Foreign/Domestic:	DOMESTIC
Terms:	PERPETUAL
Business Entity:	ANY LAWFUL BUSINESS
Additional Information:	INVOLUNTARY INTENT TO DISSOLVE DATE: 09/03/2013
Purpose:	LLC MANAGED BY MEMBER/MANAGERS
Status Comment:	INTENT TO DISSOLVE INVOLUNTARILY
Date Last Seen:	11/15/2013

Zinke Was Listed As An Officer Of The Company In Filing Documents. (Lexis, Accessed 12/12/16)

ZINKE, RYAN
 Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER
 Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER

Type: CONTACT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Double Tap, LLC

In 2012, Zinke Proposed To Build A Microbrewery And Bed And Breakfast In Whitefish, Montana. “Ryan Zinke's plan to build a microbrewery and start a bed and breakfast inn in Whitefish may take a while to work its way through the city's planning process. The Whitefish Planning Office has recommended tabling Zinke's project until a corridor study can be completed for U.S. 93 West/West Second Street. Zinke is proposing a nonresidential planned-unit development overlay on three parcels along U.S. 93 at 340, 409 and 415 West Second St. Two parcels for the bed and breakfast are on the south side of the highway and property for the microbrewery is on the north side of the highway.” (Lynnette Hintze, “Whitefish Microbrewery Plan Could Face Delay,” *Daily Inter Lake* [Kalispell, Montana], 11/12/12)

In December 2012, Zinke Withdrew His Application To Build The Double Tap Brewery And Snow Frog Inn After Pushback From Local Residents Over Zoning Issues. “In December, Whitefish resident Ryan Zinke withdrew applications to build the Snow Frog Inn bed and breakfast and the Double Tap brewery following push back from residents in the West Second Street neighborhood. The dispute was about whether the corridor was destined to be a quiet residential zone or an area for future commercial development. Zinke's projects would have required a nonresidential planned unit development overlay.” (Matt Baldwin, “93 Corridor Study Moves Forward,” *The Whitefish* [Montana] *Pilot*, 4/24/13)

Zinke Was Listed As An Officer Of Double Tap LLC In The Business' Filing Documents With The Montana Secretary Of State. (Lexis, Accessed 12/12/16)

ZINKE, RYAN
Title: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INDIVIDUAL MANAGER
Contact Type: MEMBERS/MANAGER/PARTNER

Type: CONTACT

Unmanned Aerial Systems Center of Excellence

Zinke Was At One Point A “Co-Director” Of The Unmanned Aerial Systems Center Of Excellence. “Ryan Zinke is trying to get a new industry off the ground literally in Montana. Zinke, a state senator from Whitefish, serves as a co-director for the Unmanned Aerial Systems Center of Excellence. The basic idea is to develop unmanned aerial vehicles also known as drones for a variety of nonmilitary uses.” (“Nonmilitary Drones Project To Launch In Montana,” *The Associated Press*, 12/23/10)

The Center Was Created In 2010 With The Purpose Of Researching And “Explor[ing] The Use Of Unmanned Aircraft.” “Montana State University-Northern has joined a group of other institutions to create a research center to explore the use of unmanned aircraft. ‘This project combines the unique talents and capabilities of different academic and research institutions to form an unequalled (unmanned aerial systems) Center of Excellence partnership,’ Greg Kegel, dean of Northern's College of Technology, said Wednesday in a release about the agreement. Representatives of Mississippi State University, Montana State University in Bozeman, and Rocky Mountain College in Billings joined Northern representatives in Bozeman Wednesday to sign the agreement to create the research center. Representatives of Montana's U. S. Sens. Max Baucus and Jon Tester and U. S. Rep. Denny Rehberg also attended the ceremony, as did representatives of the Governor's Office of Economic Development and of the unmanned aerial systems, or drone aircraft, industry.” (“Northern Signs On With Group Research Project For Aerial Drones,” *Havre* [Montana] *Daily News*, 12/1/10)

Special Operations For America (SOFA) PAC

Zinke Created A Super PAC To Support Mitt Romney Named The Special Operations For America (SOFA) PAC. “Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL who is seeking the Republican nomination for Montana's lone congressional seat, created the Special Operations for America (SOFA) super PAC to back Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign. The committee now backs candidates who support the military

and their first candidate is Zinke, a 52-year-old former state senator.” (Matt Volz, “GOP s Zinke Reaps Benefit Of PAC He Founded, But Is It Legal?” [The Associated Press](#), 2/16/14)

Following Romney’s Loss, The Super PAC Switched Its Focus To Candidates Who Support the Military. “Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL who is seeking the Republican nomination for Montana's lone congressional seat, created the Special Operations for America (SOFA) super PAC to back Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign. The committee now backs candidates who support the military and their first candidate is Zinke, a 52-year-old former state senator.” (Matt Volz, “GOP s Zinke Reaps Benefit Of PAC He Founded, But Is It Legal?” [The Associated Press](#), 2/16/14)

The Organization’s First Candidate Was Zinke. “Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL who is seeking the Republican nomination for Montana's lone congressional seat, created the Special Operations for America (SOFA) super PAC to back Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign. The committee now backs candidates who support the military and their first candidate is Zinke, a 52-year-old former state senator.” (Matt Volz, “GOP s Zinke Reaps Benefit Of PAC He Founded, But Is It Legal?” [The Associated Press](#), 2/16/14)

The Super PAC Was Supporting Just One Additional Candidate: Shane Osborne (R-NE). “SOFA PAC has supported just one other candidate: a \$120,000 media buy for Republican Shane Osborne's U.S. Senate campaign in Nebraska.” (Matt Volz, “GOP s Zinke Reaps Benefit Of PAC He Founded, But Is It Legal?” [The Associated Press](#), 2/16/14)

- **Over The Course Of 2013, The PAC Raised The 15th Highest Amount Among Super PACS Raising Money For The 2014 Election Cycle.** “Over the course of 2013, SOFA PAC raised \$1,317,184 15th among super PACS in money raised for the 2014 election cycle so far, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, a Washington, D.C.-based group that studies the effects of campaign contributions and lobbying.” (Matt Volz, “GOP s Zinke Reaps Benefit Of PAC He Founded, But Is It Legal?” [The Associated Press](#), 2/16/14)
- **The Group Spent \$205,000 In Independent Expenditures Supporting Zinke And Another \$47,000 Attacking His Primary Opponent Matt Rosendale.** “Federal Election Commission records showed SOFA PAC spent about \$205,000 in independent expenditures supporting Zinke in the primary election last year and about \$47,000 in independent expenditures against one of his Republican primary opponents, Matt Rosendale, a state senator from Glendive. SOFA PAC made no independent expenditures in Montana in the general election cycle.” (Charles S. Johnson, “Democrats Blast Zinke s Pick Of Former Super PAC Treasurer As Chief Of Staff,” [The Billings \[Montana\] Gazette](#), 1/7/15)

Although Zinke Resigned From The Super PAC Weeks Before Announcing His Candidacy, Questions Of A Conflict Of Interest Arose. “I resigned weeks before we announced,” Zinke told The Associated Press in a recent interview. “I wanted to make sure everything was aboveboard and squeaky clean’...Most declined to be interviewed about Zinke and SOFA PAC. Stapleton said how the PAC operates is not his call ‘I’m not going to be the guy trying to call fouls,’ he said but that the appearance of a conflict is there...Paul Ryan, chief counsel for the Washington D.C.-based Campaign Legal Center, said it is uncharted territory for a person to hand over control of a PAC to run for office. He speculated it could open the door for others to create super PACS to rake in contributions from individuals and businesses, then announce their own candidacies.” (Matt Volz, “GOP s Zinke Reaps Benefit Of PAC He Founded, But Is It Legal?” [The Associated Press](#), 2/16/14)

Campaign Finance Reports From 2014 Indicated The Super PAC And Zinke’s Campaign Were Using At Least Six Of The Same Businesses. “Recent campaign finance reports submitted by Republican congressional candidate Ryan Zinke and a super PAC that he founded show at least six businesses are working for both Zinke and the super PAC.” (Troy Cater, “Zinke Denies Super PAC Coordination,” [The Bozeman \[Montana\] Daily Chronicle](#), 6/31/14)

- **On Eight Different Occasions Those Six Businesses Were Paid On The Same Day.** “And on eight occasions, the Zinke campaign and Special Operations for America (SOFA) PAC paid those companies on the same day, according to the reports.” (Troy Cater, “Zinke Denies Super PAC Coordination,” [The Bozeman \[Montana\] Daily Chronicle](#) 6/31/14)

The Campaign Legal Center And Democracy 21 Filed FEC Complaints Against Zinke And The Super PAC Alleging Coordination. “In March, the Campaign Legal Center and the organization Democracy 21 filed Federal Election Commission complaints against Zinke, alleging illegal coordination with the SOFA PAC.” (Troy Cater, “Zinke Denies Super PAC Coordination,” [The Bozeman \[Montana\] Daily Chronicle](#), 6/31/14)

Zinke’s Campaign Denied Any Coordination. “Zinke spokeswoman Shelby DeMars strongly denied that the candidate’s campaign and the super PAC are working together. ‘There is no coordination, period,’ DeMars said.” (Troy Cater, “Zinke Denies Super PAC Coordination,” [The Bozeman \[Montana\] Daily Chronicle](#) 6/31/14)

Zinke Continued To Face Criticism Over His Connection With The Super PAC When He Named The Super PAC’s Treasurer As His Congressional Office’s Chief Of Staff Following His 2014 Win. “A Montana Democratic Party official on Tuesday criticized new Rep. Ryan Zinke for hiring as his chief of staff the former treasurer of a political action committee that spent \$250,000 in independent expenditures in support of Zinke’s candidacy and against one of his opponents.” (Charles S. Johnson, “Democrats Blast Zinke’s Pick Of Former Super PAC Treasurer As Chief Of Staff,” [The Billings \[Montana\] Gazette](#) 1/7/15)

Additional Super PAC Ties

In 2015, Zinke Launched SEAL PAC, Which Sought To Get More GOP Veterans Elected. “Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), a former Navy SEAL Team Six commander, has launched a political action committee in the hopes of getting more GOP veterans elected to Congress. The goal of SEAL PAC ‘will be to work across the country to elect more veterans and like-minded leaders to strengthen America, protect the Constitution and ensure for our country the prosperity that our generation has known,’ Zinke said in a statement.” (Martin Matishak, “Lawmaker Unveils PAC For GOP Veterans,” [The Hill](#) 1/27/15)

The Group’s 2016 Endorsements Include Jim Banks, A Congressional Candidate In Indiana, Brain Mast, A Congressional Candidate In Florida, Don Bacon, A Congressional Candidate In Nebraska, Incumbent Martha McSally, Incumbent Ron DeSantis, And Senate Candidate Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV). ([SEAL PAC](#), Accessed 12/12/16)