

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 4, 2022

The Honorable Debra Haaland  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

We write in regard to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) notice of intent to amend land use plans regarding greater sage-grouse conservation in the states of California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming published in the Federal Register on November 22, 2021. Given the significant public interest in this process and in the preparation of the associated environmental impact statements, we urge you to extend the comment period for the scoping process by 60 days to allow for more participation from states, local governments, tribes and stakeholders.

Before updating the greater sage-grouse land use plan amendments, the Department of the Interior under the last administration issued Secretarial Order 3352<sup>1</sup> with the aim of enhancing cooperation with the states, clearly identifying objectives and roles for states and the federal government, and establishing a team to review previous land use plan amendments and revisions. Additionally, during the process for the 2019 Sage-Grouse Plan amendments, the last administration made it a priority to collaborate closely with state Governors, state wildlife managers, and other concerned organizations and individuals. This close relationship with stakeholders allowed BLM to improve its alignment with state plans and management strategies to increase the conservation benefits for the greater sage-grouse. This process also helped build a greater trust between the BLM and western communities. We urge you to strive to replicate these extensive coordination efforts as a part of your review.

In December, we sent you a letter calling on you to empower states, local government, and private conservation partners as a part of this process. We also called on the Department to meet directly with impacted state and local governments as well as private conservation partners. Specifically, we requested that you host public meetings in all of the impacted states and would like an update on where the Department stands in carrying out that request.

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<sup>1</sup> S.O. 3353, Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States, [https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/so\\_3353.pdf](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/so_3353.pdf).

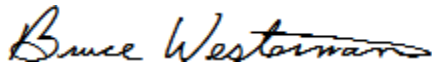
Secretary Haaland

February 4, 2022

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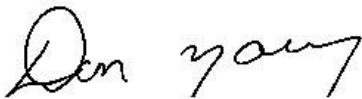
In addition, given the broad and intense interest in this process of amending land use plans regarding greater sage-grouse conservation, we call on you to extend the comment period for 60-days to ensure that important stakeholder voices across the west are heard.

Sincerely,



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Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



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Don Young  
Member of Congress



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Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



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Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



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Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen  
Member of Congress



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Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress



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Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



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Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress



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Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



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Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



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Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress



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Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



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Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



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Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



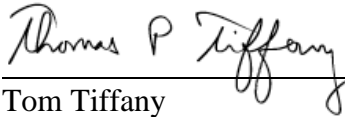
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Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress



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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



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Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress



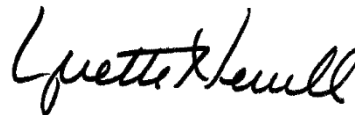
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Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress



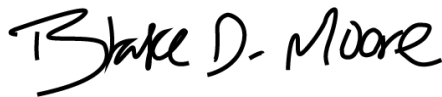
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Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



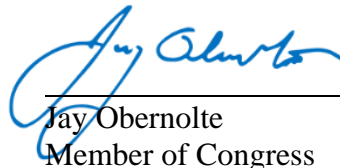
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Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress



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Blake Moore  
Member of Congress



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Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress



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Matt Rosendale, Sr.  
Member of Congress