



RUBY VALLEY
STRATEGIC
ALLIANCE

Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Tim Sheehy
Dirksen Senate Office Building SD-G55
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Ryan Zinke
212 Canon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Troy Downing
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 9, 2025

Dear Senator Daines, Senator Sheehy, Representative Zinke and Representative Downing,

We, the members of the Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance (RVSA), would like to extend our appreciation for your strong positions on opposing efforts to sell public lands. We are aware that other Republicans in Congress are considering the sale of some public lands to help pay for the budget reconciliation bill. We commend the red line that Senator Daines and Representative Zinke have drawn in public statements about the possibility of public land sales in reconciliation. We were proud to see Senator Daines and Senator Sheehy vote for the Hickenlooper/Heinrich amendment to prevent the sale of public lands to reduce the deficit in the Senate budget resolution vote on April 4th. We strongly encourage our entire delegation to stay aligned on this issue throughout budget reconciliation to show that Montana is firmly united in opposing the sale of public lands.

Public lands are integral to Montana's economy and way of life. In our landscape, working ranches and public lands are inextricably tied. Working ranches depend on grazing permits on public land while providing habitat and open space in the valley that is critical for wildlife. Not only are public lands essential for many ranching businesses, but they also support a thriving outdoor recreation economy in Madison and Beaverhead County. All of the multiple uses of public lands, be it grazing, energy development, timber, wilderness, cultural and historical resource protection, and recreation contribute to Montana's economy. They are essential for businesses across the state.

Additionally, our ability to hike, hunt, fish, and experience the outdoors depends on our wealth of public lands. We are fortunate in Montana to have such incredible access to public land, and it's part of what makes being an American so great. It's a treasured part of our heritage—something we aim to pass down to future generations so they can continue to experience the open spaces and wild lands that are so valuable to our Montana way of life.

We thank you for standing up for the people of Montana and opposing efforts to sell public lands to balance the budget. Public land sales limited in scope to address housing needs open the door to a troubling precedent and should be thoroughly analyzed outside the context of maximizing revenue generation. We agree with Senator Daines' position that the Senate should approach housing on a bipartisan basis and not be part of the Republicans' reconciliation package. Our public lands should not be reduced to financial assets to be traded in balancing a budget. Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Rick Sandru, Ruby Valley Stock Association & Sandru Ranch
John Anderson, Ruby Dell Ranch
Neil Barnosky, Ledford Creek Grazing Association & Silver Spring Ranch
Jim Berkey, The Nature Conservancy
Duke Gilman, Madison County Commission
Les Gilman, Gilman IH Cattle Company
Emily Cleveland, Wild Montana
Dan Durham, Ruby Habitat Foundation
Chris Edgington, MT Trout Unlimited
Kathryn Eklund, The Wilderness Society
Gary Giem, Warm Springs Grazing Association & Giem Angus Ranch
John Helle, Helle Livestock
Chad Klinkenborg, The Montana Land Reliance
George Trischman, Former Chairman, Montana Public Lands Council
Donna McDonald, Upper Canyon Ranch Outfitters
Sally Schrank, The Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Ruby Valley Conservation District