



For America's Heritage

## Public Lands Foundation

P.O. Box 7226 Arlington, Virginia 22207

October 1, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chair, Energy & Natural Resources Committee  
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

On behalf of the Public Lands Foundation, I am writing you regarding the legislation that would establish the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Foundation—the Bureau of Land Management Foundation Act, H.R. 3844, which passed the House on July 5, 2016.

As a national, non-profit organization with more than 700 members, comprised principally of retired BLM, but still dedicated, employees, the Public Lands Foundation has a unique body of experience, expertise and knowledge of public land management. As retirees, we believe we offer an objective and non-bureaucratic view of what is happening on the National System of Public Lands.

Establishing the BLM Foundation would provide an opportunity for the BLM to leverage private funding to support public lands, achieve shared outcomes, and focus public support on its mission. The BLM Foundation would be established as a charitable, non-profit organization to benefit the public by protecting and restoring the natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources managed by the BLM for future generations. It would be similar to other existing foundations that benefit Federal programs, including the National Park Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Forest Foundation. Despite BLM's broad and complex role, BLM is the only large Federal land management agency without a congressionally chartered foundation to help support its work.

Establishing the Bureau of Land Management Foundation would become invaluable in fostering cooperative partnerships that support the agency's multiple use and sustained yield mission as contained in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year.

The Public Lands Foundation asks you to support the passage into law the establishment of a Bureau of Land Management Foundation.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Shepard, President