



June 16, 2025

A personalized copy of this letter was sent to the following Senators – Daines, Risch, Curtis, Tillis, McCormick, Justice, and Sheehy.

Dear Senator ____:

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) and the Public Lands Foundation (PLF) thank you for your vote on April 4th in support of the amendment that would have prevented the direct sale of public lands for the purpose of deficit reduction. You clearly understand the gravity of any proposal that can eventually lead to the large-scale sale or transfer of our treasured public lands.

We appreciate your ongoing efforts at this moment to prevent current attempts to insert direct public land sale provisions in the Senate reconciliation package. We will do everything we can to support your work.

We also think the 160 million people who visit our National Forests each year and the 80 million people who visit BLM administered lands each year will also thank you now and in the future. Because, as you know, that is where they hunt, fish, camp, ride their mountain bikes, enjoy their OHV, go horseback riding, go snowmobiling, and engage in countless other outdoor recreation activities without facing a “No Trespassing” sign.

We also believe the formation of the bipartisan public lands caucus in the House founded and led by Representatives Zinke and Vasquez is a major accomplishment. Our policy will be to grow and support it. We would favor and support the creation of something similar in the Senate.

Congress has acted in the past with sideboards on land transfers and we have supported some of those actions. For example, the *Southern Nevada Public Land and Management Act enacted in 1998*, the *Forest Service Facilities and Realignment Enhancement Act of 2005*, and the *Flexible Partnership Act* which was part of the last Farm Bill are good examples of successful legislation.

Please let us know if we or our membership of dedicated retirees who spent their careers managing and taking care of these lands can be of service to you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Steve Ellis

Steve Ellis, Chair
National Association of Forest Service Retirees

Mary Jo Rugwell

Mary Jo Rugwell, President
Public Lands Foundation