

June 6, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Republican Leader  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Democratic Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of America's millions of hunters, anglers, wildlife professionals, conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts, we write to encourage you to keep federal public land sales out of the budget reconciliation bill. While we appreciate the desire to address federal land management challenges and respond to local community needs, we ask that any public land disposal be considered within transparent, public channels and that funding from sales be reinvested back into habitat and access. The reconciliation process does not provide the appropriate venue for these considerations.

Our concerns are threefold. First, selling public lands through the reconciliation process bypasses critical public engagement opportunities provided under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and limits opportunities for hunters, anglers, recreationists and other stakeholders to engage in decisions affecting lands that belong to all Americans. Public participation is a cornerstone of FLPMA, ensuring transparency and accountability. We fear that curtailing FLPMA sets a troubling precedent for future land management decisions, and any approved land sales could be made that do not serve the public interest.

Second, land sales through reconciliation would likely direct proceeds from sales to the general fund of the Treasury, rather than reinvesting funds in conservation programs that sustain our nation's wildlife, habitats and recreational opportunities. Federal lands have historically been a public trust investment, not a resource for general budgetary offsets, and the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) was permanently reauthorized in 2018 to collect receipts from appropriate BLM land sales and reinvest those dollars into projects that expand access and conserve habitat. Diverting sale proceeds away from conservation deviates from the deal struck by a broad spectrum of interest groups, and it would likely lower the ecological and recreational value of our public lands.

Third, and perhaps most critically, sales could include lands that are vital to hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation, particularly in rural areas. Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and other outdoor recreation pursuits are deeply ingrained in our cultural heritage and provide a significant driver for rural economies. The outdoor recreation industry has demonstrated a \$1.2 trillion economic output nationally. Loss of access to valuable public land could impact hunters, anglers,

and other recreationists who rely on public lands for their traditions, and could adversely affect outdoor businesses, guides and outfitters, local retailers, lodging companies and many others who rely on outdoor recreation for their livelihoods.

We recognize the need and desire for increased efficiency in federal land management, and for communities to respond to local needs and demands, but budget reconciliation legislation is not an appropriate place for land sales. We urge you to prevent the inclusion of these provisions in the Senate bill.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that our public lands continue to serve as a legacy for all Americans.

Sincerely,

American Fisheries Society  
American Fly Fishing Trade Association  
American Sportfishing Association  
American Woodcock Society  
Angler Action Foundation  
Archery Trade Association  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Boone and Crockett Club  
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust  
California Waterfowl Association  
Camp Fire Club of America  
Captains for Clean Water  
Delta Waterfowl  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Land Trust Alliance  
National Association of Forest Service  
Retirees  
National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative  
Foundation  
National Deer Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association

New York State Conservation Council  
North American Falconers Association  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Orion: The Hunter's Institute  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope and Young Club  
Public Lands Foundation  
Quail Forever  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Tall Timbers  
The Conservation Fund  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wildlife Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
Trust for Public Land  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Wild Sheep Foundation  
Wildlife Mississippi