



For America's Heritage

Public Lands Foundation

P.O. Box 7226 Arlington, Virginia 22207

May 15, 2026

The Honorable Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

I am the Vice President for Operations of the Public Lands Foundation (PLF). We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization founded in 1987 that advocates and works to keep public lands in public hands and supports the career employees at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Most of our members spent their careers managing the BLM-administered public lands located throughout the West.

We write to support the Public Lands Integrity Act (S. 4455) legislation introduced by Senator Michael Bennet (CO), Senator Jeff Merkley (OR), Senator Ron Wyden (OR), and Senator Martin Heinrich (NM) to ensure that public lands are not sold through any fast-tracked process in any future Budget Reconciliation bill. The Senate nearly approved a provision to sell public lands in a budget reconciliation bill in 2025, but ultimately abandoned the provision after significant public and bipartisan pushback to the proposal. The Public Lands Integrity Act would amend the Congressional Budget Act to ensure that public lands are not sold in the future through this fast-tracked process.

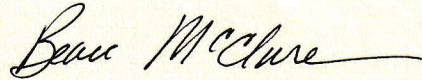
While we appreciate the desire to address federal land management challenges and respond to local community needs, we ask that any public land disposal proposals be considered within transparent, public engagement processes, and that funding from any such sales be reinvested back into other public land access and public land resources management efforts. The budget reconciliation process does not provide the appropriate venue for these considerations.

Our concerns are threefold. **First**, selling public lands through the budget reconciliation process bypasses critical public engagement opportunities provided under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Public participation is a cornerstone of FLPMA, ensuring transparency and accountability in future public land management decisions that do not serve the public interest. **Second**, land sales directed through the budget reconciliation process would most likely direct the proceeds from such sales to the general fund of the Treasury, rather than reinvesting those funds into the management of resource values in the public lands. **Third**, land sales could include public lands that are vital to outdoor recreation, open space, and other resource conservation purposes that are ingrained in our cultural heritage and provide a significant driver for rural economies. Loss of access to valuable public lands impacts all Americans.

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

Americans. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Mary Jo Rugwell, President of the Public Lands Foundation. She can be reached at mrugwell@publicland.org or at 702-202-7428.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beau McClure". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Beau McClure
Vice President for Operations
Public Lands Foundation
P.O. Box 7226
Arlington, VA 22207