

Access Fund ♦ Amargosa Conservancy ♦ American Bird Conservancy ♦ American Canoe Association ♦ American Fisheries Society ♦ American Fly Fishing Trade Association ♦ American Hiking Society ♦ American Horse Council ♦ American Rivers ♦ American Sportfishing Association ♦ American Whitewater ♦ Arizona Zoological Society ♦ Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ♦ Association of Partners for Public Lands ♦ Audubon New Mexico ♦ Boone & Crockett Club ♦ Braun & Associates ♦ Center of Southwest Culture ♦ Conservation Force ♦ Conservation Lands Foundation ♦ Continental Divide Trail Alliance ♦ Defenders of Wildlife ♦ Ducks Unlimited ♦ Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument ♦ Friends of the Desert Mountains ♦ Friends of Ironwood Forest ♦ Grand Canyon Trust ♦ International Mountain Bicycling Association ♦ Jackson Hole Land Trust ♦ Mountaineers ♦ Mule Deer Foundation ♦ Land Trust Alliance ♦ Latino Sustainability Institute ♦ National Wildlife Federation ♦ Nevada Land Conservancy ♦ Nevada Wilderness Project ♦ New Mexico Department of Game and Fish ♦ New Mexico Wilderness Alliance ♦ New Mexico Wildlife Federation ♦ Outdoor Alliance ♦ Outdoor Industry Association ♦ Pheasants Forever, Inc. ♦ Pure Fishing ♦ Quail Forever ♦ Sierra Club ♦ Soda Mountain Wilderness Council ♦ Student Conservation Association ♦ Teton Regional Land Trust ♦ The Conservation Fund ♦ The Nature Conservancy ♦ The Trust for Public Land ♦ The Vital Ground Foundation ♦ The Wilderness Land Trust ♦ The Wilderness Society ♦ Trout Unlimited ♦ Tread Lightly! ♦ Wildlife Management Institute, Inc. ♦ Wild Sheep Foundation ♦ Winter Wildlands Alliance ♦ Wyoming Outdoor Council

August 5, 2010

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Bingaman and Murkowski:

On behalf of our respective organizations, we write to express our appreciation for the Committee's approval of S. 1787, legislation to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA). In addition, we wish to express our support for legislation to reinstate funding that was transferred to another account when FLTFA expired.

In the last ten years, FLTFA has protected vitally important fish and wildlife habitat, expanded recreational access, preserved historic sites and conserved outstanding scenery. This "land for land" program has enabled private land owners to purchase federal lands near their ranches, farms and other lands, while generating funds to acquire critically important areas that provide access to public lands, protect natural resources and preserve historic sites, such as the Elk Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern in New Mexico, the South Fork Snake River in Idaho and the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado.

Prior to the expiration of FLTFA on July 25, 2010, the Federal Land Disposal Account included approximately \$50 million for projects and for the administrative account that funds the federal land sales program. On July 29, 2010, the President signed H.R. 4899, which extended FLTFA for one year, as an interim step. In conjunction with the one year

extension, passage of reinstatement legislation would provide the Bureau of Land Management with approximately \$13 million in administrative funding to continue the program, as well as funding for projects for a total of \$50 million. Reinstating the funds will also support the implementation of S. 1787 or longer term authorizing legislation.

We applaud your leadership and stand ready to assist the Committee to reauthorize FLTFA. Because of FLTFA's benefits for fish and wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation, and historic preservation, we hope the FLTFA account will be reinstated and the program will be reauthorized for the benefit of current and future generations.

Sincerely,

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