



February 6, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) urges the House to use the Congressional Review Act to roll back the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) controversial Planning 2.0 Rule. As finalized, the Planning 2.0 rule represents a broad federal overreach at the expense of state and local governments and negatively impacts the agricultural producers and rural communities that depend upon the multiple use mission of BLM. Rolling back this rule is broadly supported by a host of other organizations such as the National Association of Counties and the Public Lands Council that joined with NASDA on a January 26 letter urging swift Congressional action.

NASDA represents the Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of the state departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. NASDA members are co-regulators with the federal government and a key partner in land management. Many NASDA members, especially in the western U.S., manage natural resource programs; are full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) cooperating agencies; and work to promote rangeland health and management. As such, we are still concerned with how the proposed and final rules were developed and that the final rule will keep authority concentrated with the federal Bureau of Land Management, rather than empowering state and local decision makers.

The Planning 2.0 rule will substantially impact how BLM engages with state and local governments and manages its 245 million acres of public lands. Robust cooperation between state governments and the BLM allows federal decision-makers to respond to state and local concerns during policy development and allows for more effective implementation of federal policies. We encourage Congress to act to ensure BLM's Planning 2.0 rule does not go into effect and instructs the agency to consult with intergovernmental partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Strain DVM". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and the last name "Strain" being the most prominent parts.

**Dr. Michael G. Strain**

*NASDA President*

*Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry*