



January 26, 2017

The Honorable Liz Cheney
U.S. House of Representatives
416 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cheney:

Western Energy Alliance strongly supports the use of the Congressional Review Act to overturn the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Resource Management Planning Rule, otherwise known as the Planning 2.0 rule. We appreciate your efforts to bring a joint resolution of disapproval for this rule to a vote in the House of Representatives.

Western Energy Alliance represents over 300 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the West. Alliance members are independents, the majority of which are small businesses with an average of fifteen employees. Western Energy Alliance participated in the Planning 2.0 rulemaking process, but our comments and objections and those of other westerners were ignored in BLM's haste to enact the rules before the conclusion of the Obama Administration.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 established the statutory guidelines for BLM's management of federal lands. Under this Act, Congress specified that the lands are to be managed "on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield..." The law further states that BLM lands are to be "managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands..."

Many provisions of the Planning 2.0 rule reach beyond the actual authority granted to BLM by Congress under FLPMA. The final rule redefines the concept of multiple use, prioritizes conservation over sustained yield of natural resources, relegates governors, county commissioners and other elected officials to a secondary role, and limits public involvement. The rule would further strain BLM staff and make decision making on public lands nearly intractable, as land use planning would be an ever-present activity that would rarely be complete.

Besides delaying oil and natural gas development indefinitely, Planning 2.0 would prevent ranching, mining, timber harvesting and other productive uses of the West's working landscapes that sustain rural communities and livelihoods. The rule would increase uncertainty for land users, create ambiguity in the planning process, and prevent productive users from conducting long-term planning. This added uncertainty would likely result in reduced development of federal minerals and other natural resources, and lead to a loss of royalty and tax revenue for federal, state and local governments.

Western Energy Alliance strongly supports use of the Congressional Review Act to roll back this clear overreach of federal authority. We urge Congress to act swiftly to overturn the Planning 2.0 rule, and we very much appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. M. Sgamma', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kathleen M. Sgamma
President

cc: Speaker Paul Ryan
Majority Whip Steve Scalise
Chairman Rob Bishop