



## Public Lands Council

November 4, 2011

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
US House of Representatives  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bishop:

**RE: Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization**

The Public Lands Council (PLC) has represented ranchers who graze livestock on public lands since 1968, preserving the natural resources and unique heritage of the West. Public land ranchers own nearly 120 million acres of the most productive private land and manage vast areas of public land, accounting for critical wildlife habitat and the nation's natural resources. PLC works to maintain a stable business environment in which livestock producers can conserve the West and feed the nation and world.

PLC supports the reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA), a tool that has been effective in the west for both ranchers and land management agencies.

FLTFA's "land for land" concept provides a common sense approach to managing a landscape out west which consists of private, state, and federal lands often intertwined. Through FLTFA and by authority of the Federal Land Management Policy Act, ranchers may buy scattered federal lands encumbering their properties. The program allows ranchers the opportunity to acquire adjacent and nearby federal lands for private ownership, while also providing a dedicated funding source to federal land management agencies to allow them to better manage the lands remaining under federal ownership.

In the past, FLTFA has been used successfully to provide a way for the federal government to dispose of land while using the revenue to purchase areas (from willing sellers) they deem a priority for conservation purposes.

Our members remain concerned and opposed to the federal government enlarging total land ownership in the west. To that end, PLC supports a no-net-gain provision being added to the reauthorizing bill to ensure the Act does not allow for an enlargement of federal land holdings.

Sincerely,

Dustin Van Liew  
Executive Director  
Public Lands Council