

American Bird Conservancy ♦ American Canoe Association ♦ American Fly Fishing Trade Association ♦ American Hiking Society ♦ American Horse Council ♦ American Rivers ♦ American Sportfishing Association ♦ Arizona Zoological Society ♦ Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ♦ Association of Partners for Public Lands ♦ Audubon New Mexico ♦ Boone and Crockett Club ♦ Campaign for America's Wilderness ♦ Center for Southwest Culture ♦ Cienega Watershed Partnership ♦ The Conservation Fund ♦ Continental Divide Trail Alliance ♦ Federation of Fly Fishers ♦ Friends of Agua Fria National Monument ♦ Friends of Ironwood Forest ♦ International Mountain Bicycling Association ♦ Land Trust Alliance ♦ National Conservation System Foundation ♦ National Parks Conservation Association ♦ National Trust for Historic Preservation ♦ National Wildlife Federation ♦ Natural Resources Defense Council ♦ The Nature Conservancy ♦ New Mexico Wildlife Federation ♦ Outdoor Alliance ♦ Outdoor Industry Association ♦ Partnership for the National Trails System ♦ Public Lands Foundation ♦ Sierra Club ♦ Teton Regional Land Trust ♦ Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership ♦ Trout Unlimited ♦ The Trust for Public Land ♦ Vital Ground ♦ Western Rivers Conservancy ♦ The Wilderness Land Trust ♦ The Wilderness Society ♦ Wild Sheep Foundation ♦ Winter Wildlands Alliance

December 17, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
703 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bingaman:

We are writing in support of S. 1787, your bill to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act.

The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000 (FLTFA) has been a successful and balanced approach to land conservation. FLTFA provides a key tool for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service to purchase critical inholdings and edgeholdings from willing sellers in the western states. Using a "land for land" approach, FLTFA has generated over \$113 million in revenue from BLM sales of scattered and discontinuous tracts and the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture have approved over \$66 million toward protecting more than 18,000 acres of high-priority land.

Your legislation will help ensure that FLTFA's success continues. S. 1787 incorporates key principles for reauthorization by maintaining the "land for land" principle in the current law; making the authorization permanent; and allowing designated areas to qualify for funding, regardless of the date of designation. Because of FLTFA's great benefits for fish and wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation and historic preservation, we hope to see it reauthorized before it expires in July 2010.

As your bill moves forward, we look forward to working with you and your staff on elements of the bill relating to the eligibility of lands for disposal and individual county bills. We support the provision in the House bill striking the date restriction on land use plans so that any land identified for disposal in a plan qualifies for FLTFA, regardless of the date of the plan. Additionally, we support the language in the Senate bill regarding the

White Pine and Lincoln counties and encourage that the Owyhee, ID, and Washington, UT, county bills be included and other local public lands legislation be addressed, as well.

Thank you again for introducing this important legislation. We applaud your leadership and stand ready to assist you in reauthorizing FLTFA.

Sincerely,

Darin C. Schroeder
Vice President of Conservation Advocacy
American Bird Conservancy

Gary Berlin
President
American Fly Fishing Trade Association

Ben Pendergrass
Legislative Director
American Horse Council

Gordon C. Robertson
Vice President
American Sportfishing Association

Gary J. Taylor
Legislative Director
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Karyn Stockdale
Vice President and Executive Director
Audubon New Mexico

Mike Matz
Executive Director
Campaign for America's Wilderness

Martie Maiehauser
Chairman
Cienega Watershed Partnership

Steve Dudley
Executive Director
Continental Divide Trail Alliance

Tim Flood
President
Friends of Agua Fria National Monument

Drew Vankat
Policy Analyst
International Mountain Bicycling Association

Wade Blackwood
Executive Director
American Canoe Association

Gregory A. Miller, Ph.D.
President
American Hiking Society

William Lee
Vice President for Government Relations
American Rivers

Jeff Williamson
President
Arizona Zoological Society

Donna Asbury
Executive Director
Association of Partners for Public Lands

Robert Model
Chairman
Boone & Crockett Club

Arturo Sandoval
President
Center for Southwest Culture

Lawrence A. Selzer
President and CEO
The Conservation Fund

Philip Greenlee
Chairman of Board/President
Federation of Fly Fishers

Lahsha Brown
Executive Director
Friends of Ironwood Forest

Russell Shay
Director of Public Policy
Land Trust Alliance

Chris Soderstrom
Vice President for Policy and Government Affairs
National Conservation System Foundation

Emily Wadhams
Vice President for Public Policy
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Robert L. Bendick
Director, U.S. Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy

Mark Singleton
Chairman
Outdoor Alliance

Scott Slesinger
Legislative Director
Natural Resources Defense Council

Henri Bisson
President
Public Lands Foundation

Conrad Kramer
Executive Director
Teton Regional Land Trust

Steve Moyer
Vice President for Government Affairs
Trout Unlimited

Gary Wolfe
Executive Director
Vital Ground

Reid Haughey
President
The Wilderness Land Trust

Gray Thornton
President and CEO
Wild Sheep Foundation

Kristen Brengel
Director of Legislative and Government Affairs
National Parks Conservation Association

Jim Lyon
Vice President for Conservation Policy
National Wildlife Federation

Edward Olona
President
New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Frank Hugelmeyer
President
Outdoor Industry Association

Gary Werner
Executive Director
Partnership for the National Trails System

Debbie Sease
National Campaign Director
Sierra Club

Thomas M. Franklin
Senior Vice President
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Kathy DeCoster
Vice President and Director of Federal Affairs
The Trust for Public Land

Phillip Wallin
President
Western Rivers Conservancy

David Moulton
Director, Climate Policy and
Conservation Funding
The Wilderness Society

Mark Menlove
Executive Director
Winter Wildlands Alliance