

COUNTY COUNCIL



David Ure - Chair
Claudia McMullin - Vice Chair
Sally Elliott
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January 18, 2012

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: FLTFA Hearing Request

Dear Chairman Bishop:

As the Summit County Council, we are writing to thank you for cosponsoring H.R. 3365, the **Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization of 2011 ("FLTFA")**. At this critical time, we are also writing to request that hearing on H.R. 3365 be scheduled soon so that approval may be achieved this spring.

If enacted, FLTFA will provide a balanced approach for conservation in our county, in Utah and the West. Through FLTFA's "land for land" concept, the revenue from the sale of surplus BLM lands identified for disposal will be invested in local Utah conservation projects rather than being lost to the Federal Treasury. In the past, this important funding tool has helped achieve wildlife protection, increased public access, improved forest management and enhanced watershed protection. Often, the federal dollars invested are matched with State and private funds to realize even greater conservation leverage. FLTFA land sales also provide benefits for counties and/or local public and private entities wishing to purchase federal lands for public and/or private use. Examples include the purchase of BLM lands for a school in Salt Lake City, a community college in Palm Desert, California, increased public land sales in St. George to accommodate growth, and many other examples of ranchers and landowners being able to expand their businesses through purchasing surplus federal lands identified for disposal.

Originally passed with bi-partisan support in 2000, FLTFA unfortunately expired in 2010. However, H.R. 3365 promises to re-authorize this important legislation, again on a bi-partisan basis, now with the support of over 80 diverse user groups. We hope you will do what you can to see that H.R. 3365 receives a hearing soon so that this important western lands tool for counties, ranchers, wildlife protection and watershed enhancement can advance. This is a win/win proposal which will be of great benefit to Utah and the West.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of David Ure in blue ink.

Dave Ure
Council Chair

Handwritten signature of Claudia McMullin in blue ink.

Claudia McMullin
Council Vice-Chair

Handwritten signature of Christopher J. Robinson in blue ink.

Chris Robinson
Council Member

Handwritten signature of John Hanrahan in blue ink.

John Hanrahan
Council Member

Handwritten signature of Sally Elliott in blue ink.

Sally Elliott
Council Member

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