

**Access Fund ♦ American Fisheries Society ♦ American Fly Fishing Trade Association ♦ American Hiking Society ♦ American Horse Council ♦ American Sportfishing Association ♦ American Whitewater ♦ Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ♦ Association of Northwest Steelheaders ♦ Association of Partners for Public Lands ♦ Audubon New Mexico ♦ Boone and Crockett Club ♦ The Conservation Fund ♦ Conservation Lands Foundation ♦ Ducks Unlimited ♦ Friends of the Desert Mountains ♦ Friends of Ironwood Forest ♦ Friends of Sonoran Desert National Monument ♦ Grand Canyon Trust ♦ Grand Staircase Escalante Partners ♦ Greater Yellowstone Coalition ♦ Idaho Conservation League ♦ International Mountain Bicycling Association ♦ Land Trust Alliance ♦ Latino Sustainability Institute ♦ Mountaineers ♦ National Parks Conservation Association ♦ National Trust for Historic Preservation ♦ National Wildlife Federation ♦ The Nature Conservancy ♦ Nevada Land Conservancy ♦ Nevada Wilderness Projects ♦ New Mexico Wilderness Alliance ♦ North American Grouse Partnership ♦ NW Guides and Anglers Associations ♦ Organizers in the Land of Enchantment (OLÉ) ♦ Outdoor Alliance ♦ Partnership for the National Trails System ♦ Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation ♦ Sanctuary Forest ♦ San Juan Citizens Alliance ♦ Student Conservation Association ♦ Superstition Area Land Trust ♦ Teton Regional Land Trust ♦ Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership ♦ Tread Lightly! ♦ Trout Unlimited ♦ The Trust for Public Land ♦ The Vital Ground Foundation ♦ Western Rivers Conservancy ♦ The Wilderness Land Trust ♦ The Wilderness Society ♦ Wildlife Management Institute ♦ Wild Sheep Foundation ♦ Winter Wildlands Alliance**

May 5, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bingaman:

On behalf of our respective organizations, we write in support of S. 714, your bill to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA).

FLTFA is a fiscally responsible and important land conservation tool for the West. Through FLTFA's "land for land" concept, BLM sells land identified for disposal and generates funding for BLM, USFS, NPS and USFWS to acquire critical inholdings and edgeholdings from willing sellers. Through this balanced approach, the BLM sold land to private land owners, counties, companies and others for ranching, community development and various projects. The sales revenue provided funding for BLM realty staff and administration of the program and allowed agencies to acquire high-priority lands with recreational access, historic significance and ecological importance. Through reauthorization, FLTFA will continue to provide benefits for local economies, the agencies and conservation.

We want to express our support for permanent reauthorization and for striking the date restriction on land sales that qualify for the Federal Land Disposal Account. As your bill moves forward, we look forward to working with you and your staff.

Thank you again for introducing this important legislation. We applaud your leadership and stand ready to assist you in reauthorizing FLTFA. Because of FLTFA's great benefits for fish and wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation and historic preservation, we hope to see this important conservation funding tool reauthorized before it expires in July 2011.

Sincerely,

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