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## United States Senate

October 17, 2017

The Honorable Michael Nedd  
Acting Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C St. NW, Rm 5665  
Washington, DC 20240

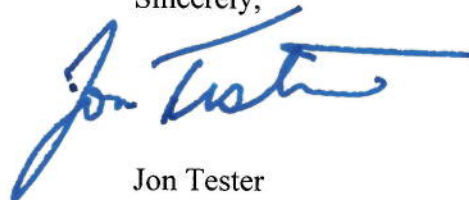
Dear Acting Director Nedd:

I write regarding the Bureau's actions pertaining to protections for greater sage-grouse habitat in Montana and throughout the American West. These plans were put together through years of collaboration between local, state and federal stakeholders, including Montanans from a diverse array of backgrounds and industries. I urge you not to discard a chance to collaborate with the same people who helped put these plans together for the lands they work and recreate on. It's my sincere hope that you will listen to the folks on the ground, ensure a public and transparent process, and build on the work of those who spent years communicating and collaborating.

The broad, bipartisan effort to conserve the greater sage-grouse has been historic. From ranchers to local government representatives to extractive industries and conservation groups, people from all walks of life worked together to provide sage grouse with a real shot at recovery, and to avoid a listing under the Endangered Species Act. A critical part of that collaborative effort is input from local stakeholders on the 98 land use plans to better protect grouse on federal lands. While not perfect, those plans ultimately averted an ESA listing. I urge you to closely study the solid foundation these collaborative working groups crafted and ensure their voices aren't lost in the Administration's review.

I am concerned that the 45-day public comment review period is far too short for such an important issue. The local plans the Administration recently reviewed took years to craft so any effort to change them should not be done lightly. I ask that you extend the public comment period to 90 days to ensure everyone can make their voices heard.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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