

United States Senate

January 26, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear President Trump and Secretary Zinke:

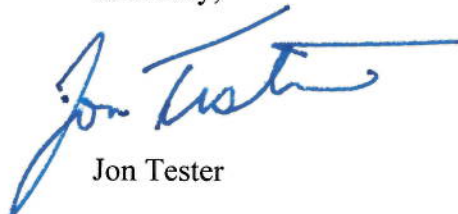
I write regarding recent reports that a draft plan to address our nation's critical infrastructure needs includes a proposal to allow for the transfer or sale of public lands. I am deeply concerned by these reports, which, if true, would fly in the face of your repeated public commitments to not sell or transfer the management of our public lands to individual states.

In Montana, our public lands are the backbone of our \$7.1 billion outdoor recreation economy, support our family ranchers, and provide the clean air and water that our state constitution guarantees. Public lands protect some of our nation's most special places, from Alex Diekmann Peak to the clear waters of East Rosebud Creek. Federal management of these places has never been perfect, but selling off these resources would be a short-sighted budget gimmick that directly damages the outdoor heritage we leave for our kids and grandkids, and undercuts every aspect of our outdoor economy.

We need to address our nation's vast infrastructure needs, and I look forward to working with both of you to get roads built, bridges repaired, schools and internet service improved, and dams maintained. But if we fund these efforts by selling off our public lands, we are mortgaging our nation's conservation legacy. We are hamstringing our powerhouse outdoor economy. We are robbing the next generation of one of their best assets. I will never accept that.

I hope you can clarify why this provision was considered in your draft proposal, and that you stand by your stated convictions against transferring or selling public land. A final infrastructure plan cannot include this authority. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester