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April 28th, 2021

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
2065 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you once again include language to prevent a future Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing for the Greater Sage-Grouse.

Northwestern Colorado is located on the southern edge of Greater Sage-Grouse range, and an ESA listing of the Greater Sage-Grouse would prevent energy development, grazing, and forms of recreation. The Greater Sage-Grouse is not an endangered or threatened species. Conservation of this species should be kept at the state level.

States have proven that they can manage these habitats and species in an effective way. In 2015, the Department of Interior found that a listing of the sage-grouse under ESA was not warranted due to the efforts of the states which house the Great Sage-Grouse. Unfortunately, the Obama administration implemented a de facto listing through nearly 100 overly restrictive Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendments and Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Amendments which were not necessarily due to state conservation efforts. In many cases, these RMPs and LRMPs were even more restrictive than a critical habitat designation under an ESA listing. The Obama Administration also sought to shut down mineral development by withdrawing 10 million acres of the bird's habitat from future mining activity – actions which lacked the benefit of scientific support or correlation with species recovery. Fortunately, this massive mineral withdrawal was canceled in October of 2017.

Accordingly, we ask that you once again include the following language this fiscal year:

GREATER SAGE –GROUSE

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to write or issue pursuant to section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) — (1) a proposed rule for greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*); (2) a proposed rule for the Columbia basin distinct population segment of greater sage-grouse.

Sincerely,

Lauren Boebert

Member of Congress