# PROTECT OUR PUBLIC LANDS

***Defending America's Natural, Economic, and Cultural Heritage***

## Subject: Reject All Attempts to Sell or Transfer Federal Public Lands

Dear [Title and Name],

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to oppose any legislation that would sell, trade, or transfer federal public lands out of public ownership. These lands are the backbone of rural economies, the lungs of our environment, and a shared treasure that belongs to all Americans.

Public Lands: Vital and Invaluable
Far from being surplus, federal public lands are essential to the nation’s health and prosperity. They supply clean drinking water, purify the air, store carbon, and protect biodiversity. These lands also preserve sacred cultural sites, support traditional practices like hunting and fishing, and provide opportunities for recreation, education, and spiritual renewal.

Economic Engines for Rural America
National Forests support more than 223,000 jobs in rural communities and contribute $14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy through recreation, restoration, and resource management. Timber sales support 23 jobs for every 1 million board feet harvested in Idaho, sustaining local mills, truckers, and forestry workers. Grazing allotments help multi-generational ranching families remain viable, while mining operations yield essential minerals and provide tax revenue and royalties for local infrastructure.

Recreation and Restoration: Cornerstones of Resilience
Outdoor recreation on National Forests generated over $12.5 billion in GDP and 153,800 jobs in 2019 alone. Visitors to communities within 50 miles of these lands spent over $13 billion, supporting lodging, retail, and service sectors. Restoration investments deliver a double benefit: every $1 million spent creates 15 to 24 jobs and strengthens forest health, fire resilience, and watershed function. Programs such as the Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship Contracting are expanding local industries focused on timber harvest, stream repair, nursery cultivation, wildfire suppression, fuels reduction, and ecological restoration.

Communities Anchored in Public Lands
These lands do more than support economies—they are foundational to rural identity and sustainability. Selling or transferring them would devastate small towns, reduce access, fragment wildlife corridors, and eliminate long-standing economic activity. Unlike state or private lands, which often prioritize short-term profit, federal lands are managed for multiple uses and the long-term public good. Federal land management agencies and their employees are vital threads in the fabric of rural communities, participating in schools, civic groups, churches, and local businesses. Stripping these lands from federal stewardship would unravel both the economy and community cohesion.

Safeguarding a National Legacy
At a time of climate instability, economic uncertainty, and social division, our public lands remain a unifying force. They provide stability, resilience, and a shared stake in our national future. I respectfully but urgently ask you to oppose all proposals that threaten the integrity of our public lands estate. Instead, I call on you to defend these irreplaceable resources by supporting collaborative, transparent, and sustainable land management that serves all Americans—now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your City and State]

[Optional: Email/Phone]