

**American Bird Conservancy ♦ American Canoe Association ♦ American Fly Fishing Trade Association ♦ American Hiking Society ♦ American Rivers ♦ American Sportfishing Association ♦ Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ♦ Association of Partners for Public Lands ♦ Boone and Crockett Club ♦ Center for Southwest Culture ♦ The Conservation Fund ♦ Continental Divide Trail Alliance ♦ Ducks Unlimited ♦ Federation of Fly Fishers ♦ Friends of Ironwood Forest ♦ International Mountain Bicycling Association ♦ Land Trust Alliance ♦ National Audubon Society ♦ National Conservation System Foundation ♦ National Parks Conservation Association ♦ National Trust for Historic Preservation ♦ National Wildlife Federation ♦ The Nature Conservancy ♦ New Mexico Wildlife Federation ♦ Outdoor Alliance ♦ Outdoor Industry Association ♦ Partnership for the National Trails System ♦ Sierra Club ♦ Teton Regional Land Trust ♦ Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership ♦ Trout Unlimited ♦ The Trust for Public Land ♦ Vital Ground ♦ Western Rivers Conservancy ♦ The Wilderness Land Trust ♦ The Wilderness Society ♦ Wild Sheep Foundation**

November 17, 2009

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1505 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cynthia Lummis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1004 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Heinrich and Representative Lummis:

We are writing in support of H.R. 3339, a bill to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act.

The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000 (FLTFA) directs the revenues generated from the sale of BLM lands identified for disposal to an account for purchases of critical inholdings and adjacent tracts from willing sellers in federally designated areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service in the western United States. FLTFA embodies the concept of “land for land,” using the proceeds from land sales to acquire key lands. Since enactment, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture have approved over \$68 million toward protecting more than 18,700 acres under the FLTFA program.

Because FLTFA’s authorization expires July 2010, we greatly appreciate your leadership in moving the reauthorization effort forward. FLTFA provides a balanced approach for conservation and economic development, complements the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and leverages federal and non-federal funds. In a time of increased budget pressures, this is an excellent way to use the sale of BLM land to generate funds to acquire high priority land for conservation, outdoor recreation and historic preservation.

Your legislation will help ensure that FLTFA’s success continues. The FLTFA Reauthorization Act incorporates key principals for reauthorization by maintaining the “land for land” principle in the current law; making the authorization permanent; allowing all FLTFA designated areas to qualify for funding, regardless of the date of designation; and removing the date restrictions for BLM land use plans.

Thank you again for introducing this legislation. We applaud your leadership and stand ready to assist you in reauthorizing FLTFA.

Sincerely,

Darin C. Schroeder  
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American Bird Conservancy

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President  
American Fly Fishing Trade Association

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Vice President and Executive Director  
Audubon New Mexico

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