March 7, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2018

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of our 83 respective organizations, we write in support of H.R. 5133, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization of 2018, a critical lands bill for the West that supports local economies, resolves private-public land “checkerboard” issues, and conserves high-priority lands for recreation, wildlife habitat, and historic preservation. We appreciate your leadership on this bill and bringing it to Committee markup today. We urge you to make the enactment of a permanent reauthorization of FLTFA a priority this year, including working to include it on any upcoming larger legislative vehicles.

Originally enacted in 2000 (P.L. 106-248), and expired in 2011, FLTFA is a “modified land exchange” program for Alaska and the eleven contiguous western states. The FLTFA program works under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), including its lands sales policy, and makes the change to create a “Federal Land Disposal Account” (“Account”) that facilitates Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land sales and federal agency conservation in an efficient and strategic manner. With FLTFA, the proceeds from the sale of BLM lands identified for disposal are directed to the special Account to fund priority conservation projects by the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that will increase access for recreation, protect rivers and
trails, and preserve historic lands. The FLTFA program resulted in 39 recreational access and conservation projects with willing sellers from 2000-2011, including at Zion National Park in Utah and Elk Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern in Arizona. The Account also provides some funding for the BLM land sales process. FLTFA helps resolve the “checkerboard” of public and private lands in the west by facilitating land consolidation, which helps counties, ranchers, businesses, and communities meet local needs; increases public access to recreation; protects valuable natural and cultural resources, including critical wildlife habitat; reduces land management costs and risks; and other benefits.

We support permanently reauthorizing FLTFA this year, to reinstate an incredible western lands tool that benefits the environment and the economy. FLTFA cannot be utilized again until it is reauthorized, and we appreciate your work to bring it back for the West.

Sincerely,

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Amazing Earthfest
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
American Whitewater
American Woodcock Society
Arizona Land and Water Trust
Arizona Trail Association
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Back Country Horsemen of Utah
Back Country Horsemen of Washington
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Boone and Crockett Club
California Wilderness Coalition (CalWild)
Californians for Western Wilderness
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
Columbia Land Trust
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
Conservation Lands Foundation
Corps Network
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports
Dallas Safari Club
Defenders of Wildlife
Delta Waterfowl
Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Hancock Natural Resource Group
Idaho Conservation League
KS Wild
Mojave Desert Land Trust
Montana Association of Land Trusts
Mule Deer Foundation
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
National Deer Alliance
National Parks Conservation Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Wild Refuge Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Nevada Land Trust
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
North American Grouse Partnership
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Outdoor Alliance
Outdoor Industry Alliance
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Partnership for the National Trails System
Pheasants Forever
Pope & Young Club
Professional Outfitters and Guides of America
Public Lands Foundation
Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Sonoran Institute
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Sportsmen’s Alliance
Teton Regional Land Trust
The Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
The Conservation Fund
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Land Trust
The Wilderness Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
Tuleyome
Vista Outdoor
Washington Association of Land Trusts
Western Rivers Conservancy
Whitetails Unlimited
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute
Wildlife Mississippi

cc:
The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Steve Scalise
The Honorable McMorris Rodgers
The Honorable Luke Messer
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable James Clyburn
The Honorable Joseph Crowley
The Honorable Don Young
The Honorable Louie Gohmert
The Honorable Doug Lamborn
The Honorable Rob Wittman
The Honorable Tom McClintock
The Honorable Steve Pearce
The Honorable Glenn Thompson
The Honorable Paul Gosar
The Honorable Raúl Labrador
The Honorable Scott Tipton
The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
The Honorable Jeff Denham
The Honorable Paul Cook
The Honorable Bruce Westerman
The Honorable Garret Graves
The Honorable Jody Hice
The Honorable Amata Coleman Radewagen
The Honorable Darrin LaHood
The Honorable Daniel Webster
The Honorable David Rouzer
The Honorable Jack Bergman
The Honorable Liz Cheney
The Honorable Mike Johnson
The Honorable Jenniffer González
The Honorable Greg Gianforte
The Honorable Grace Napolitano
The Honorable Madeleine Bordallo
The Honorable Jim Costa
The Honorable Gregorio Sablan
The Honorable Niki Tsongas
The Honorable Jared Huffman
The Honorable Don Beyer
The Honorable Norma Torres
The Honorable Ruben Gallego
The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
The Honorable Nanette Barragán
The Honorable Darren Soto
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
The Honorable Donald McEachin
The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
The Honorable Lacy Clay
The Honorable Jimmy Gomez