



June 25, 2025

The Honorable Tim Sheehy  
U.S. Senator  
124 Russell Senate Office Building  
2 Constitution Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20510-5006

Dear Senator Sheehy,

Thank you for your service in representing the great state of Montana in Congress. We hope you take time to consider this letter on behalf of over 10,000 Audubon members in Big Sky Country. National Audubon Society, Montana Audubon and all nine independent Audubon Chapters in Montana write to you today to **thank you for your recent stand on a critical issue for our heritage – ensuring public lands remain in public hands.**

From its numerous forests and mountain ranges with rich river valleys nestled between to the eastern prairies and badland formations, our public lands are Montana. The national lands in Montana serve as essential habitat for wildlife and over 400 avian species – including iconic bird species like Golden eagles, Sandhill cranes and Greater sage-grouse. This joint letter speaks to both our national public lands in Montana and beyond our state’s borders. We couldn’t agree more with Representative Zinke, who said, *“Public lands, no matter where it’s at, public lands belong to all of us.”*

We join a vast majority of Americans who are strongly opposed to selling off our nation’s public lands. **As Montanans and avid users of public lands, we are hopeful that we can continue to count on you to keep all federal public land sales out of the Congressional budget reconciliation bill.**

Public lands represent economic opportunity for many American families and communities and serve as a major economic driver in many western states, attracting millions of people every year. Not only do these lands provide resources and jobs that support ranchers, local hotels and businesses, but they are also what makes the American West special and why we choose to live here.

We recognize the need and desire for efficiency in federal land management, and for communities to respond to local needs and demands, but we wholeheartedly agree with you that budget reconciliation legislation is not an appropriate place for land sales.

Our nation’s public lands are a great source of pride and beloved by many across our country. We work hard, contribute to our communities, and highly value our public lands and the ability to access and enjoy them – those here in Montana and beyond.

As your constituents, we appreciate that you have taken a strong stance to protect our shared legacy for current and future generations.

We thank you for your consideration and your efforts to represent the best interest of Montana residents.

Sincerely,



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