

August 9, 2025

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Oppose Misuse of the Congressional Review Act to Rescind Federal Land Use Plans

Senator Heinrich:

As organizations that work closely with rural communities, small businesses, and outdoor recreation stakeholders across the country, we write to express our deep concern with recent efforts to use the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to rescind federal land use plans, including the Miles City Resource Management Plan Amendment in Montana, the Central Yukon Plan in Alaska, and the North Dakota RMP.

While we understand that land use decisions often prompt healthy debate, using the CRA to overturn long-term land management plans would create unprecedented legal and economic instability—particularly for gateway communities and small businesses that depend on public land access.

These land use plans are the product of multi-year public engagement processes and serve as the foundation for everything from hunting and grazing access to trail systems, outfitter and guide operations, backcountry permitting, and recreation infrastructure. Overturning even one plan under the CRA would call into question the legal status of every land use plan finalized since 1996, potentially upending decades of local collaboration, community planning, and economic development.

This would have real consequences on the ground:

- Permits and access for outfitters, guides, and recreation events could be suspended or revoked.
- Campground improvements, trail maintenance, and visitor infrastructure projects could be delayed or halted.
- Private sector investment in recreation-related businesses could stall in the face of regulatory uncertainty.
- Gateway communities and rural economies, many of which are already facing headwinds, would lose the predictability they rely on to thrive.

Outdoor recreation contributes over \$1.1 trillion annually to the U.S. economy and supports millions of jobs, many of them in rural counties. Federal land use plans are essential for managing this economic engine in a responsible, locally-informed manner. Undoing these plans through a blunt instrument like the CRA would not only silence local voices but also undermine the very communities the CRA's backers claim to support.

This is not about any one plan. It is about preserving a predictable, participatory framework for managing our public lands—one that respects local input, supports small business growth, and fosters long-term economic opportunity.

We strongly urge you to oppose the misuse of the Congressional Review Act to rescind land use plans. There are already many legitimate avenues—through NEPA, FLPMA, NFMA, and local collaboratives—to shape and revise these plans. Choosing instead to scrap them wholesale under the CRA would set a dangerous precedent that could ripple across the entire public lands system.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your commitment to protecting both America's public lands and the communities that depend on them.

Sincerely,

Access Fund
American Mountain Guides Association
American Whitewater
Colorado Mountain Club
Outdoor Alliance
Outdoor Industry Association
Public Land Solutions
Runners for Public Lands
The Conservation Alliance
The Mountaineers
Winter Wildlands Alliance