

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 15, 2024

Hon. Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Patty Murray
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Jeff Merkley
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Chair Murray, and Chairman Merkley:

Thank you for your diligent work to complete the fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills. In finalizing the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we urge you to stand firm in rejecting anti-public lands poison pills in any final agreement.

The House Republican bill includes a number of provisions that are antithetical to the broad, bipartisan support for clean water, outdoor recreation, and public land conservation in our states. These provisions would overturn protections for public lands, risk invaluable fish and wildlife habitat, and threaten lands and waters where our constituents love to climb, hunt, paddle, and camp. The Interior appropriations bill should not be turned into a vehicle for policies that weaken protections for public lands and waters and make it harder for families to enjoy the outdoors.

Throughout the fiscal year 2024 appropriations process, your commitment, along with Ranking Member Collins, to resist poison pill riders has led to a historically bipartisan process. As we conclude the critically important work of keeping the federal government funded and open to serve our constituents, we urge you to keep the Interior bill free of controversial anti-public lands riders.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

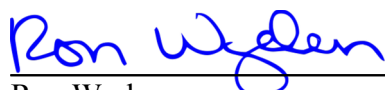
Sincerely,



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



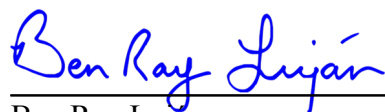
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



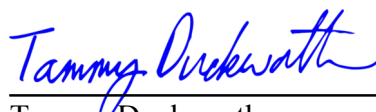
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



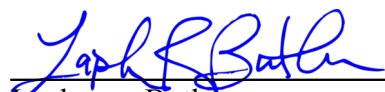
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



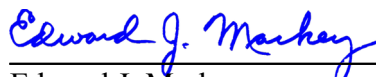
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Laphonza Butler
United States Senator




Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



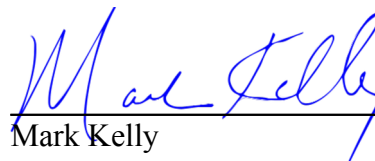
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator