



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603

October 28, 2022

Ms. Tracy Stone Manning
Director, Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Judge Veronica Larvie
Office of Hearings and Appeals
351 South West Temple, Suite 6.300
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Dear Ms. Manning and Judge Larvie,

I write today concerning the recent decision denying the petition of stay for grazing on Bureau of Land Management allotments in Montana. Cattle ranching is of paramount importance to the economic stability of rural America. It provides for the livelihoods for many across Eastern Montana, and it provides sustainable and affordable high-quality protein to the United States. The ability to graze livestock responsibly has been a concern of ranchers since the dust bowl of the 1930s. The Taylor Grazing Act is a critical piece of legislation that has allowed sustainable and productive grazing practices since it was enacted in 1934. The recent denial of petition ignores nearly 90 years of best range management practices in order to appease radical climate activists and interest groups.

The Taylor Grazing Act established grazing districts that issue use permits for a fee in order to regulate public land use and prevent overuse. The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for administering the range lands under the Act. Recently, petitions for stay filed by the Office of the Governor of the State of Montana, Montana Stockgrowers Association, and the North and South Phillips County Grazing Districts were denied by the Office of Hearings and Appeals. These groups filed appeals regarding BLM's decision on grazing allotments granted to the American Prairie Reserve and petitioned for a stay on this decision. This OAH decision is flawed and sets a dangerous precedent for the rest of the United States.

The decision and BLM's position ignores that the Taylor Grazing Act defines livestock as "species of domestic livestock – cattle, sheep, horses, burros and goats."¹ It does not include bison and they are therefore not eligible for permit grazing under the Act. On September 24, 2019, American Prairie Reserve submitted a proposal to BLM asking for approval for a drastic shift in grazing allotment management. Defined as "domestic indigenous livestock",² it sought to include bison as a permitted species within Taylor Grazing Act. After hosting only one virtual


¹ 43 CFR § 4100.0-5 - Definitions. | CFR | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute (cornell.edu)

² APR New Grazing Proposal.docx (blm.gov)

meeting for public feedback on July, 21, 2022, BLM issued a final decision that was almost identical to the proposal submitted by American Prairie Reserve.

This decision violates federal laws and ignores the interests of the community and ranchers. The Taylor Grazing Act, and subsequent policies were established to prioritize a sustainable and healthy rangeland for decades to come, while allowing the ranching economy to continue to flourish. In an effort to appease climate activists, your offices must not sacrifice ranchers and community members of Montana. As long as the Taylor Grazing Act and longstanding federal law is neglected, America's economy will suffer and communities will be denied the voice they deserve on this subject. I urge you to reverse your position immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew M. Rosendale Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and "R".

Matthew M. Rosendale Sr.
Member of Congress