

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 3, 2024

Tracy Stone-Manning  
Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Stone-Manning,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed Western Solar Plan, which would significantly expand solar energy development on Western public lands. This plan would make over 31 million acres of public lands across Arizona, Colorado, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming available for solar development, which will not only harm native plant species and wildlife but also block the productive use of these lands that our western states depend on to maintain their way of life.

The Western Solar Plan would lock up 572,479 acres of public land in Montana alone, encompassing vast open areas that could otherwise support multiple uses.<sup>1</sup> The northeastern region of Montana, identified for possible solar development, is recognized as a migration corridor for pronghorns and greater sage grouse that move between Montana and Canada. Additionally, covering this land with solar infrastructure would restrict Montanans' access to recreation, grazing, and tourism, which are vital to our state's economy and citizens livelihood.

As you are aware, Montana winters are extremely harsh. Despite this, the Western Solar Plan proposes transforming large areas of our state into solar fields, which would be inefficient and unreliable due to the sparse sunlight during winter months. Solar energy has proved to be least effective when my constituents need it the most.

I urge you to immediately halt the Western Solar Plan. The people of Montana must be consulted before any alternative plan is developed. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.  
Member of Congress

---

<sup>1</sup>[https://eplanning.blm.gov/public\\_projects/2022371/200540728/20118387/251018367/Final%20Solar%20PEIS%20Proposed%20Plan%20Montana%20map.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/2022371/200540728/20118387/251018367/Final%20Solar%20PEIS%20Proposed%20Plan%20Montana%20map.pdf)