



Alan Olson
Executive Director

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U.S. Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Dear Senator Daines:

On behalf of nearly two hundred businesses working in the oil and gas industry, the Montana Petroleum Association applauds Senator Steve Daines for supporting the disapproval of the Planning 2.0 initiative proposed by Obama’s Bureau of Land Management.

MPA finds the Planning 2.0 initiative problematic for numerous reasons.

First, the initiative fundamentally changes the process by which the public, including state, local and tribal local governments and stakeholders participate in land management planning. The rule reduces the formal comment period from 90 to 60 days, in spite of frequent requests for extended comment deadlines.

Second, ‘Landscape level planning’ shifts the input and decision-making processes regarding Resource Management Plans away from local and district offices to Washington D.C. Not only does this shift the planning and decision-making away from those with the most working knowledge of the land and resources, but it opens the door to special interests who might seek to influence land use management decisions.

Third, ‘Planning 2.0’ removes the congressional mandate that BLM report to Congress prior to implementation of any Resource Management Plan which would eliminate “one or more principal or major uses for 2 or more years with respect to a tract of 100,000 acres or more.”

To place the non-use of lands over sustainable development, without congressional approval, undermines our system of checks and balances, and threatens future opportunities for new exploration.

Thank you, Senator Daines for taking a stand against this initiative to fundamentally change land use planning and management practices. For too long, those in natural resource development industries have been subjected to costly, duplicative, and deleterious rules promulgated by agencies which have overstepped their authority. Disapproving the Planning 2.0 rule is a step in the right direction for management practices that support the maximum use of our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Alan Olson
Executive Director