

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 10, 2020

Mary B. Neumayr
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality
730 Jackson Place NW
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Ms. Neumayr,

We write to commend you on your efforts to modernize the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. This long over-due rulemaking will help facilitate the development of needed infrastructure in communities across the West, streamline responsible natural resource management, conservation, and recreation activities on our public lands, and further American prosperity without compromising federal agencies' responsibility to the environment or public input.

CEQ's NEPA regulations have not been substantially updated in over four decades during which the environmental review process became increasingly outdated leading to an unnecessarily cumbersome permitting process, delays in project implementation, and an abundance of litigation. The result is that the average length of an Environmental Impact Statement is now over 600 pages and takes over four and a half years to complete. This is not conducive to public engagement, sound decision-making, or investments in our communities and pulls resources away from critical work that needs to be done.

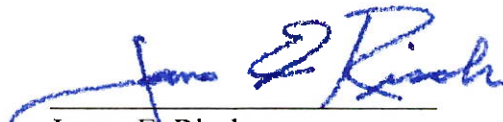
CEQ's proposed rulemaking "Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act" offers a common-sense, efficient, and streamlined approach to environmental review and permitting. NEPA was never intended to be used to obstruct projects through meaningless bureaucratic hurdles nor was compliance intended to be merely a paperwork exercise. This proposed rulemaking will ensure projects are implemented in a more efficient, less costly, and smarter manner securing good stewardship of both the environment and our federal resources. This rule is the result of extensive public engagement and thoughtful deliberation and we encourage you to maintain the timeline for finalization.

Again, thank you for your work to strengthen and improve the procedural provisions of NEPA. These updated regulations will make a critical difference for folks out West. We stand ready to support and assist you in advancing this and other policies that benefit our environment and rural economies.

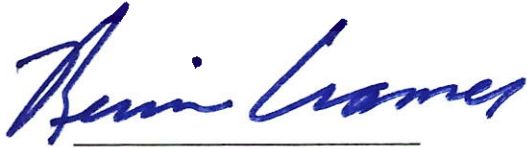
Sincerely,



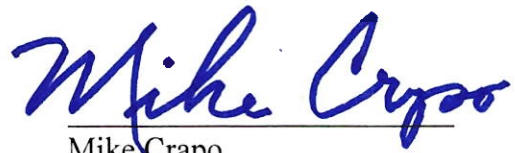
Steve Daines
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



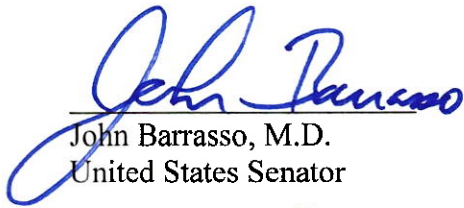
Mike Crapo
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



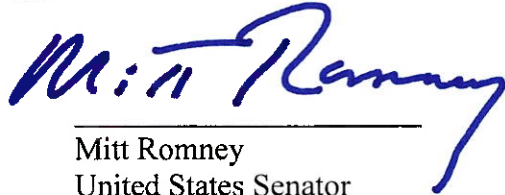
Tom Cotton
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



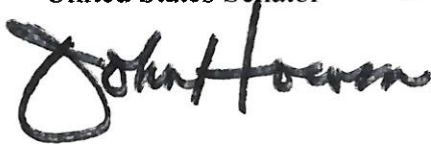
Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Mitt Romney
United States Senator



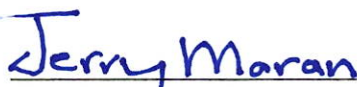
Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



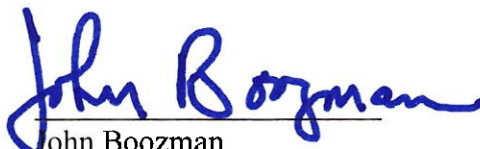
Pat Roberts
United States Senator



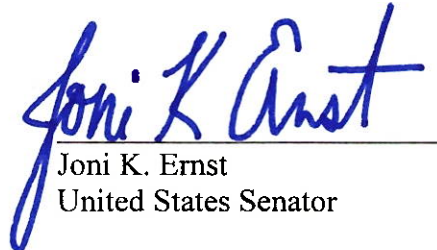
Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Martha McSally
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator