

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2023

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

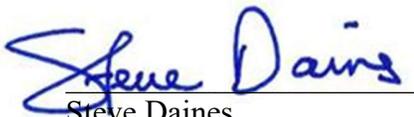
Director Stone-Manning,

We write to request that the upcoming Bureau of Land Management appeals hearing concerning the American Prairie Reserve Grazing Proposal be held in Malta, Montana. The American Prairie Reserve's proposal, if implemented, will open nearly 70,000 acres in Phillips County to grazing by non-production livestock, eliminate interior fencing, and modify the season of use. This proposal has major implications on the local community as well as agriculture and recreation users. It is important that local land use changes and conflicts are discussed in local communities where members from all sides of the issue are able to easily attend.

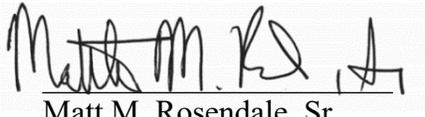
As you know, the distance between Malta and Billings is over 200 miles, accounting for nearly a three and a half hour drive each direction. This distance, time, and fuel cost makes it difficult for those who are most affected to be present during the hearing. Malta has adequate resources to logistically host this event in-person, including ample lodging accommodations and sufficient meeting spaces. Holding a hearing in the affected area makes the most sense for all those involved.

Given the consequential nature of this hearing for Phillips County, it is imperative that local stakeholders and community members have appropriate access by holding it in Malta. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Matt M. Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress



Ryan R. Zinke
Member of Congress