

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2023

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

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

Dear Secretary Haaland and Director Stone-Manning,

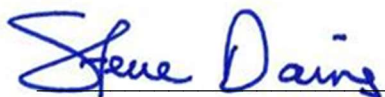
We write to express our concern with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) current record of mandated lease sales on federal lands in Montana. The Biden administration's first nineteen months in office saw the fewest acres leased for oil and gas since World War II. It is concerning that since taking office the BLM has only held one lease sale in Montana. Despite congressionally mandated lease sales and a federal court reversal of the Biden administration's leasing moratorium, the BLM is not offering any parcels in Montana for the upcoming competitive lease sale in June while Americans continue to face rising energy costs and persistent inflation.

The Biden administration, including the BLM, has taken steps to make it increasingly more difficult to lease, drill, and produce oil and gas on federal lands since the first day in office. The lack of lease sales does not just limit the supply of oil and natural gas, but also effects helium supply and production, particularly in north-central Montana. Helium is a critical component in scientific research, medical technology, high-tech manufacturing, and national defense. The U.S. Geological Survey has indicated that the domestic helium supply is at risk of consequential disruptions, particularly as consumers are facing supply allocations and paying more for helium.

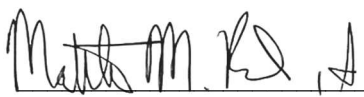
Therefore, we request that the BLM provide to us 1) the total numbers of acres nominated in Montana since the September 2020 Lease Sale; 2) the total numbers of acres deferred in Montana for upcoming lease sales, and the reason for each deferral, since January 20, 2021; 3) the average length of time from when a parcel is nominated in Montana until it is offered at a lease sale since January 20, 2021; and 4) the total number of leases and acres offered in Montana since January 20, 2021.

The United States continues to face an ongoing energy crisis worsened by supply constraints, regulatory uncertainty for oil and gas producers, rising costs, and deliberate policy choices pursued by this administration. It is imperative that BLM prioritize domestic energy production by holding competitive lease sales on federal land, including in Montana, in order to strengthen American energy security.

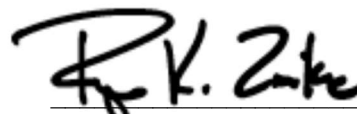
Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.
United States Congressman



Ryan K. Zinke
United States Congressman