

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 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 disappointment that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has once again failed to offer any Montana parcels for the upcoming December and March lease sales. The BLM continues to ignore both Congressional mandates requiring oil and gas lease sales on federal land and a federal court reversal of President Biden's ill-conceived leasing moratorium while Americans struggle under high energy prices. While restricting our domestic energy supply and undermining our national security, President Biden and the BLM's hostility to made-in-Montana energy also guts important royalties that fund conservation projects, infrastructure projects, and education. It further throttles oil and gas production on private land where rightfully held leases are held hostage by minority federal tracks located in a spacing unit. All of this hurts Montana small businesses, families, and local landowners. It is simply unacceptable that under the Biden Administration there will be zero federal oil and gas lease sales in Montana in 2023.

Disappointingly, we have yet to receive a response from the BLM to our letter dated June 7, 2023 concerning the underwhelming number of mandated lease sales in Montana since President Biden took office. Therefore, we again request answers to the following questions: 1) the total number of acres nominated in Montana since the September 2020 Lease Sale; 2) the total number of acres deferred in Montana, 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. Finally we ask a simple question: When does the BLM plan to hold an oil and gas lease sale offering parcels in the State of Montana as required by federal law?

The BLM's disregard for legally mandated lease sales in Montana and lack of transparency as President Biden continues to make it more difficult to produce American made energy is beyond concerning. Therefore, we request a prompt response to our questions and urge the BLM to offer Montana parcels during the upcoming lease sale.

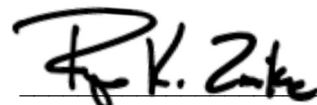
Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.
United States Congressman



Ryan K. Zinke
United States Congressman