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 [Date: June 19, 2025]

The Honorable [Senator's Full Name] United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

**Subject: Urgent Opposition to the Public Lands Sale Provision (senr-budget-rec-NEW25684-20250617) in the Senate Budget Reconciliation Bill**

Dear Senator [Senator's Last Name],

I am writing to you today as a deeply concerned constituent to express my unequivocal opposition to the budget reconciliation bill currently under debate, specifically due to the devastating public lands provision it contains: **senr-budget-rec-NEW25684-20250617**. This provision, attached to what has been referred to as the "big beautiful bill," represents what is likely the largest single sale of our national public lands in modern American history, and it must be stopped.

The provision forces the arbitrary sale of a minimum of two million acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands across 11 Western states within the next five years. Shockingly, the total area eligible for disposal under this measure encompasses a staggering **250 million acres**. This is being advanced through the budget reconciliation process, a maneuver that bypasses proper democratic procedure, eliminating public hearings, meaningful debate, and crucial input from the American people who own these lands.

For me and my community in Southeast Arizona, the consequences would be catastrophic. Cherished local treasures like Sabino Canyon, Cave Creek Canyon, and numerous other parcels within our iconic Sky Island mountain ranges would be eligible for sale. While some areas like Madera Canyon are designated as a USFS Recreational Area, there is no guarantee of its protection. Even if it were excluded from direct sale, the surrounding lands in the Santa Rita Mountains that are not protected—including Florida Canyon, Gardner Canyon, and the bajada—would be sold off.

Selling these lands would lead to irreversible habitat fragmentation, urban sprawl, and industrial development. The ecological integrity of entire ecosystems would be shattered. Madera Canyon is a biodiversity hotspot precisely because it is part of a large, contiguous natural landscape. This landscape supports a rich variety of wildlife, including threatened and majestic species like the Jaguar, Ocelot, Mountain Lion, Black Bear, and Mexican Wolf. Selling off pieces of this habitat is a death sentence for the ecological whole.

Similar arguments can be made for most of the excluded sites – selling off neighboring lands would lead to irreversible damage.

The justifications for this massive land sale are misleading and disingenuous.

1. **A False Solution for Housing:** The provision is being masked as a way to increase the housing supply, yet it contains no safeguards to ensure the land is used for this purpose. Furthermore, research indicates that very little of the land managed by the BLM and USFS is suitable for affordable housing development.
2. **A Giveaway to the Wealthy:** This is not about helping ordinary Americans. It is a thinly veiled attempt to generate short-term revenue to fund tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the wealthiest individuals and corporations, trading our shared natural heritage for their financial gain.
3. **Disregard for Tribal Sovereignty:** The bill shamefully fails to grant sovereign Tribal Nations the right of first refusal to reclaim lands that are part of their traditional homelands or contain sacred cultural sites.
4. **Threat to National Monuments:** Compounded by a recent Department of Justice opinion asserting the power to revoke national monument protections, this provision places even our most treasured national monuments at unprecedented risk.

This is not a partisan issue; it is an American issue. Our public lands are a vital part of our national identity, a cornerstone of our outdoor recreation economy, and a critical resource for preserving biodiversity and ecological resilience in a changing climate.

Stopping this single provision is the only way to protect these invaluable landscapes for future generations. I implore you to recognize the profound and irreversible damage this bill would inflict upon our nation's public lands. I urge you to stand for our natural heritage, for your constituents, and for the future of our country by voting **NO** on the entire budget reconciliation bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]