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Western Energy Alliance Lauds Repeal of BLM's Planning 2.0 Rule ^[1]

DENVER - Western Energy Alliance issued the following statement today regarding passage of the resolution to repeal the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Planning 2.0 rule:

"Western Energy Alliance applauds the Senate's vote today to overturn BLM's Planning 2.0 rule. We commend Congresswoman Liz Cheney of Wyoming for her leadership in getting the rule passed in both chambers. Rep. Cheney recognized that the rule, rushed through in the waning days of the Obama Administration, would negatively impact jobs and economic growth across the West without delivering better environmental protection," said Kathleen Sgamma, president at the Alliance.

"Planning 2.0 downplayed the voice of communities that derive their livelihoods from multiple-use public lands by elevating preservation-only special interests over the broad public interest. Someone from New York cavalierly sending in a Sierra Club-generated email opposing a rancher's grazing permit or a local oilfield worker's project simply is not invested as deeply as those living in western communities. Western governors, tribal councils, county commissioners, ranchers, and local stakeholders directly involved in the communities surrounded by federal lands should be afforded a higher level of deference than outside special interests. While all Americans have a say in how public lands are managed, those closest to the land are the ones who intimately understand the land and how to effectively balance protection with responsible economic development.

"BLM's overreaching rule redefined the concept of multiple use designated by Congress, prioritized preservation over responsible development of the food, fuel and fiber that support human life, and limited public involvement in the planning process. The former administration characterized the rule as landscape-level planning, but it really was an attempt to treat the West as a blank slate that can simply be written on anew, ignoring realities on the ground, state borders, congressional mandates, rural economies, and individual livelihoods. Westerners welcome the proper rebalancing of federal land management."

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