Local Input *Act*

U.S. CONGRESSMAN
JOE NEGUSE

Endorsing Organizations

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Fiscal Institute, Conservation Colorado, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, Montana Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Nevada Conservation League, Nevada Wildlife Federation, New Mexico Voices for Children, New Mexico Wild, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, Nuestra Tierra, Public Land Solutions, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Save The Aurora Reservoir, Taxpayers for Common Sense, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited, Western, Colorado Alliance, The Wilderness Society, Wilderness Workshop, Wild Montana

Supporting Statements

Conservation Colorado

"The Local Input Act is fundamentally about putting the public back into public lands management. By restoring the BLM's discretion to say no to speculative oil and gas leasing, land managers can actually act when communities raise the alarm. We cannot afford a mandate that sacrifices our state's vital resources—from critical wildlife habitats and working agricultural lands to millions of dollars in state conservation investments. Most importantly, this legislation ensures we protect our frontline and vulnerable communities who disproportionately bear the brunt of harmful air emissions and polluted groundwater when local voices are silenced," **said Brien Webster, Senior Public Lands Campaign Manager, Conservation Colorado.**

Western Colorado Alliance

"Coloradans know and treasure their public lands. Our hunters, anglers, ranchers, landowners and stakeholders in the outdoor economy have helped the BLM make data-driven decisions and balance the multiple uses mandated by law for decades. But changes to laws and rules have cut out our local voices when it comes to oil and gas drilling on public lands, and we're already seeing the consequences: the largest sales to oil and gas companies in Colorado's modern history, with over 100 parcels in the Elk Hunting Capital of the World. The LOCAL Act offers a balanced, targeted fix that would restore the role of locals and the government's ability to respond.

I am grateful to Representative Neguse for protecting the voice of Colorado communities, and I hope to see Congress swiftly pass this legislation and bring back balance to our public lands management," **said Barbara Vasquez, Board Member at Western Colorado Alliance.**

Local Input *Act*

U.S. CONGRESSMAN
JOE NEGUSE

Colorado Fiscal Institute

"Colorado's public lands are one of our most valuable shared assets, supporting local economies through energy development, ranching, outdoor recreation, and conservation. The strongest decisions about these lands are made when local communities, land managers, and experts closest to the ground have a meaningful role in the process. The Local Input Act helps restore that local expertise to the conversation and supports the kind of balanced stewardship Colorado's public lands deserve," **said Chris Stiffler, Senior Economist of Colorado Fiscal Institute.**

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

"Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU) represents roughly 14,000 farm and ranch families in New Mexico, Wyoming, and Colorado. Our farmers and ranchers are dedicated to sustaining our rural communities, to the wise stewardship and use of natural resources, to the protection of our safe, secure food supply, and the ongoing economic viability of family-owned operations. RMFU supports the Local Input Act because it helps ensure that decisions regarding the use of public lands are informed by a variety of stakeholders, including the people working on the land. Across the West, public lands help sustain rural communities and agricultural production through uses such as grazing, timber harvesting, and local energy development.

"The Local Input Act would preserve the authority of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to consider input from ranchers, Tribal communities, and rural businesses that may be impacted by oil and gas leasing while carrying out the multiple-use mandate for public lands.

"This legislation is important for ranchers and split-estate landowners, who can be significantly affected by oil and gas development on grazing allotments and privately owned surface lands. The leasing stage is the most practical opportunity for permittees to identify potential impacts on water resources, soils, livestock operations, and existing agricultural uses, and maintaining meaningful local input at this stage supports more informed decision-making and better outcomes for land managers. RMFU believes decisions affecting public lands are best made with input from rural communities, agricultural producers, and local BLM field staff who understand the landscapes they manage," **said Chad Franke, President, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union.**

Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship

"Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship (CRS) wholeheartedly supports the Local Input Act.

"There is nothing more conservative, or more American, than having local input into our federal land management decisions. After all, these public lands belong to all of us. They support our way

of life. As the song says, 'This land is your land, this land is my land,' so whether one hunts, fishes, camps, hikes, climbs, mountain bikes, grazes cattle, or depends on the water flowing from these areas, we all have a right to be heard and have our views considered. We cannot allow our heritage and our lifestyle to fall victim to shady backroom deals and swamp politics.

"One has to ask, why would anyone oppose something as common sense and fair as the Local Input Act? The only reason I can think of is to ram through actions or sneak in decisions that they know are unpopular and can never get public support. That is not democracy. So, for any elected official who does not support this legislation to restore basic public input in the management of our public lands, we must ask them to explain why they want to silence fellow Americans and deny input from the local folks who will be impacted," **said David Jenkins, President, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship.**

Trout Unlimited

“Energy development and fish and wildlife conservation can co-exist on public lands, but it takes the right policies,” said **Lindsay Slater, Vice President of Government Affairs for Trout Unlimited**. “Local public land users know these lands best and deserve a meaningful opportunity to weigh in on proposals to lease public lands for oil and gas development. Trout Unlimited supports the Local Input Act because it will keep the public in public land management and ensure that resource professionals on the ground are able to make informed decisions when considering the appropriate use of our public lands.”

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

“NRDC strongly supports the Local Input Act because every American deserves a meaningful voice in decisions affecting our shared public lands.

“Public lands belong to all of us, and decisions about their future should reflect the public interest. Drilling proposals can affect a community's water, wildlife, ranches and farms, outdoor recreation opportunities, and cultural resources. Local communities deserve to be heard, and land managers should have the authority to act on those concerns. The Local Input Act restores and affirms that commonsense principle,” **said Amy Mall, Director of Fossil Fuels at the Natural Resources Defense Council.**

Local Input *Act*

U.S. CONGRESSMAN
JOE NEGUSE

Public Land Solutions

"Public Land Solutions approaches this issue from the economic perspective. Local input is critical not only for the future of communities, but also for the financial health of the oil and gas industry. States, tribes, and communities have needs and plans that must be considered in advance. Auctioning parcels without making the bidder aware of these issues is irresponsible. Leases often remain on the books of the oil and gas companies for decades and when they do try to sell or develop them, these fully foreseeable issues will come up--reducing the value of their investments.

"The Local Input Act would codify the requirement for local input and provide a mechanism for this input to be fully considered, including by removing parcels from proposed lease sales based on the needs and plans of State, Tribal, and Local governments. This bill will ensure that all necessary information is disclosed to bidders in advance of any lease sale," **said Ashley Korenblat, Managing Director Public Land Solutions.**

Wilderness Workshop

"Thriving rivers, landscapes, and wildlife are the lifeblood of West Slope communities and economies, yet they remain vulnerable to destructive oil and gas drilling. Now more than ever, rigged leasing rules are favoring out-of-state corporate interests over the people who live, work, and recreate here, prioritizing industry interests over local communities. Representative Neguse's Local Input Act restores the Bureau of Land Management's ability to consider community input and reject the most harmful leasing proposals. By ensuring Coloradans have a meaningful say in decisions that affect our waters, farms, businesses, and homes, this legislation will help protect our region's future," **said Erin Riccio, Advocacy Director at Wilderness Workshop.**

Montana Wildlife Federation

"Montanans know best. That's the simple impetus behind the Local Input Act, which would return meaningful say in oil and gas leasing decisions to the people who live, recreate and rely on Montana's public lands. The Copper Kings taught us lasting lessons on what can happen when we allow our natural resources to be plundered without community input; we'd be wise not to let that happen again. The Local Input Act would ensure that when oil and gas leasing is proposed on our public lands, other interests - like grazing and agriculture, tourism, and outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing - all have a say. Montanans know best, and the Local Input Act would again provide an opportunity for our voices to be heard in leasing proposals," **said Frank Szollosi, Executive Director, Montana Wildlife Federation.**

Local Input *Act*

U.S. CONGRESSMAN
JOE NEGUSE

New Mexico Wildlife Federation

"Good management of public lands can only happen when people who know the land have a voice, and New Mexico sporting men and women know these lands. Public lands are central to our lives; supporting wildlife, irreplaceable cultural sites, hunting and recreation, as well as booming oil and gas production. The Local Input Act ensures New Mexicans will keep their voice about which public lands to lease to oil and gas, and the government will restore its promise to listen.

"We thank Senator Luján and Representative Neguse for this principled solution, and call on Congress to pass the Local Input Act and make sure that the communities that rely on public lands can have a say in their management," **said Jesse Deubel, Executive Director, New Mexico Wildlife Federation.**

New Mexico Voices for Children

"Oil and gas production in New Mexico isn't slowing down, which means decisions about where it happens matter now more than ever. The Local Input Act ensures that local communities can inform leasing decisions, and push back when leasing is proposed where it doesn't belong– like next to schools, hospitals, or vital water sources. When it comes to decisions that impact the health and safety of our children, those most impacted deserve a seat at the table," **said Gabrielle Uballez, Executive Director of New Mexico Voices for Children.**

Nevada Wildlife Federation

"One of America's best ideas is public lands. Providing people access to millions of acres to hike, graze, hunt and produce energy is a truly unique opportunity. However, this process does require the public to be engaged," **said Russell Kuhlman, Executive Director of the Nevada Wildlife Federation.** "The best way to be engaged is to use the best available science and have a platform for your voice to be heard. Attempts to de-invest in science and cut out the local stakeholders on where energy development should take place are not beneficial to the outdoor community or wildlife. The Local Input Act will ensure people invested in this land will always have a say in how it is managed."

Save the Aurora Reservoir

"Save The Aurora Reservoir (STAR) is deeply concerned about the ongoing BLM lease-sales impacting residential areas. Our community of 80,000 SE Aurora residents, including 2,800 people directly affiliated with STAR , will be negatively affected by further oil and gas operations.

Colorado is in a stage 3 drought emergency (declared by Gov. Polis 6/4/26) and operations directly threaten our drinking water reserves.

“Selling more parcels creates a concentration of oil and gas development that is counter-intuitive given the air quality in the Colorado Front Range. In 2022, the EPA reclassified the Denver metro/north Front Range from a “serious” to a “severe” nonattainment area under the 2008 ozone pollution standard. Adding more parcels to the Lowry Ranch CAP area will significantly increase the impacts of the existing projects, including 151 wells on 7 pads all within 5 miles of our neighborhoods.

“The BLM must understand the health and environmental threat any sales to oil and gas companies will have.

“As president of STAR I want to take a moment to thank both Rep. Neguse and Senator Lujan for their leadership on this issue. We depend on those elected federally to protect our rights and our lands. I applaud their efforts to ensure these sales are in the best interests of those impacted by them.

“Please consider the impacts these additional sales will put on a residential area in which thirteen schools are also within 5 miles of the previously sold parcels, some only one mile from significant well pads.

“Why are we allowing the risk of health problems on our children who are more susceptible to health risks due to their higher metabolic and respiratory rates? Why is this an acceptable risk to pose?

“The Front Range has already experienced 31 dangerous ozone days since June 1, 2026 and new wells will only compound the existing damage we already face to our soil, water and air. I appreciate being able to voice my concerns,” **said Randy Willard, President, Save the Aurora Reservoir (STAR).**

The Wilderness Society

“Community engagement is fundamental to sound stewardship of our public lands. At a time when the administration is limiting opportunities for public comment, the Local Input Act would ensure people once again have a say in how public lands are managed. Before decisions are made on our public lands, Coloradans want the freedom to agree or disagree — and want DC to listen to them. Thank you, Representative Neguse, for leading the Local Input Act in the House of Representatives. We urge Congress to advance this important legislation,” **said Jim Ramey, Colorado State Director, The Wilderness Society.**