June 28, 2021

The Honorable Senator Joe Manchin
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator John Barrasso
Ranking Member, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Manchin:

We write to you today to express our opposition to the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As her nomination has progressed and more information about her history and background have come into the public domain, it has become clear that she is not fit for the position she has been nominated to fill. At a time when BLM finds itself at a crossroads, the agency needs strong and effective leadership, and we believe Ms. Stone-Manning is not the person to do that.

Of particular concern to us are recent revelations that Ms. Stone-Manning was party to a tree-spiking campaign in the Clearwater National Forest in the early 1990’s. Given the Biden Administration’s supposed concern for domestic terrorism, this nomination is particularly puzzling and worrisome. Tree-spiking is a form of ecoterrorism, considered by the FBI at one point as one of its highest domestic terrorism priorities.¹ This terrorist tactic endangers foresters and lumber workers and when perpetrated threatens the economic viability of forestry dependent communities in the West, like the communities surrounding the Clearwater National Forest. Someone who has participated in such activities clearly does not have the judgement to serve in such an important position.

Ms. Stone-Manning’s opposition to the relocation of the BLM’s headquarters to Grand Junction, Colorado and overtly partisan past are also of concern. BLM manages 245 million acres of land, primarily in the West, and it only makes sense that the decision makers running the agency be located at the epicenter of those managed lands. Mrs. Stone-Manning has also shown open hostility towards Republican members of Congress in some of her past roles, the very Republican members who represent large swaths of the lands under BLM’s jurisdiction.

¹ John Lewis, Deputy Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Testimony before the Committee on Public Works, United States Senate, 109th Congress, May 18, 2005.
In addition, BLM finds itself at a crossroads facing many challenges brought on by the policies of this administration which threaten its multiple-use mandate. For example, the Biden Administration has illegally paused new oil and gas leasing and is threatening to lock up more lands under the proposed 30x30 program, both of which are at least in part under BLM’s jurisdiction. In addition, BLM has an extremely large maintenance backlog that diminishes the recreational opportunities of our constituents and is in desperate need of tackling. The question facing the agency is: does it go down the path restrictive preservation or the path of active conservation that embraces its multiple-use mandate? Any new Director of BLM must grapple with these challenges and make sound judgements, something that we feel Ms. Stone-Manning will not be able to do.

As you continue to consider the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning to be the Director of BLM, we ask that you carefully consider our concerns. We believe that she is not fit to lead an agency that is integral to the economic and environmental viability of our districts. We hope that once you consider the full scope of Ms. Stone-Manning’s background and the current situation facing BLM that you will join us in opposing her nomination.

Sincerely,

Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Don Young  
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

Jody Hice
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Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress