



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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June 19, 2014

Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Public Lands  
and Environmental Regulation  
1324 Longworth H.O.B.  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

We write to express the support of Western Governors for your legislation, the Advancing Conservation Education Act of 2014. We applaud your effort to facilitate state-federal land exchanges and are prepared to provide support and encouragement for its enactment into law.

The burdensomeness and complexity of federal land exchange processes often prevent the completion of sensible and mutually beneficial exchanges, even on a government-to-government basis. Consequently, state lands remain locked in federal conservation areas, and states are deprived the economic benefit of land grants that were made to fund education and other purposes.

We believe that your bill, which provides a process for states to relinquish lands within federal conservation areas and select unappropriated lands of equal value, represents a strong step toward reform of the federal land exchange process. Moreover, we commend the bipartisan approach that was used in crafting this bill, as well as your efforts to reconcile and accommodate the interests of a wide range of stakeholders.

Thank you for your sponsorship of this bill and your consideration of our views. With warm wishes and best regards, we are

Respectfully,

John Hickenlooper  
Governor, State of Colorado  
WGA Chairman

Brian Sandoval  
Governor, State of Nevada  
WGA Vice Chairman

*Similar letter sent to Representative Peter DeFazio, Ranking Minority Member,  
Committee on Natural Resources*