

Governor Mark Gordon  
200 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

July 29, 2021

Dear Governor Gordon,

As organizations representing thousands of hunters and anglers in Wyoming, we thank you for your support of HBO122 – Hunting and Fishing Access-Reliable Funding. Access is one of the most important issues facing hunters and anglers today. Even with extensive federal and state lands in Wyoming, more than 4 million acres in the state have been identified as landlocked and without legal public access. Building on the success of HBO122, hunters and anglers see a related opportunity in digitizing state held easements to help inform the public of legal access opportunities.

As you know, HBO122 provides funding for Wyoming Game and Fish Department to work cooperatively with landowners to develop voluntary agreements to provide public access to private, state, and federal lands in Wyoming. The state has a long history of negotiating access agreements for the public to enjoy land and waters, and we are excited about the prospects of Wyoming securing new agreements with the help of the additional funding from HBO122.

Over the past decade, handheld Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) devices and smartphone applications have transformed the way the public accesses and navigates lands and waters. No longer do people rely solely on paper maps and trailheads; smartphone applications can tell a user within nine feet where they are standing in proximity to property boundaries, creeks, trails, roads, campgrounds, and other features. GPS mapping applications have become so popular in recent years that private sector navigation products are now available for hunters and anglers, skiers, bicyclists, paddlers, off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, and other recreationists. Real-estate agents, farmers, ranchers, game wardens, firefighters, and a host of other professionals have similarly come to rely on these technologies. And these navigation products are affordable, often costing under \$30 a year.

Similar to how they showcase public roads and trails, GPS devices have the potential to display the precise location of access easements, and efforts are underway at the federal level to digitize easements and other access rights presently held on paper file by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. These efforts would be accelerated if bipartisan legislation being championed by Wyoming Senators John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis—called the Modernizing Access to our Public Land Act (S. 904)—was passed into law.

As the state of Wyoming increases its efforts to secure new access easements through the implementation of HBO122, we encourage the state to develop a comprehensive geospatial layer for these agreements that can be integrated into modern smartphone applications and GPS devices to help the public discover legal access routes and waters. Doing so would not only help the public find places to hunt and fish, but it would also make it easier for law enforcement officers to enforce the state's trespass laws, and it would help state and federal

land managers more effectively oversee their holdings. Finally, this information will need to be digitized at some point to create land management efficiencies, and it simply makes sense to start now so easements can be uploaded as they are acquired versus going back and doing the work later.

Thank you for your consideration. We stand ready to support you in these efforts, and we appreciate your support for access programs and your leadership of our great state.

Sincerely,

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Nick Dobric

Bowhunters of Wyoming, Harvey Dalton

Muley Fanatic Foundation, Josh Coursey

Western Bear Foundation, Joe Kondelis

Water for Wildlife Foundation, Vickie Hutchinson

One Shot Antelope Hunt Club, Carl Asbell

Trout Unlimited, Liz Rose

Wyoming Wildlife Federation, Dwayne Meadows

Wyoming Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Buzz Hettick

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Leah Burgess

Wyoming Outdoorsmen, Janet Stambaugh

Central Wyoming Chapter of Safari Club International, Michael Keim

Mule Deer Foundation, Shawn Blajszczak

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, Zach McDermott

Wyoming Game Wardens Association, Teal Cufaude

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Ellary TuckerWilliams

Wyoming Outfitters & Guides Association, Sy Gilliland

CC:

Brian Nesvik, Director, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Jenifer Scoggin, Director, Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments

Darin Westby, Director, Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

Luke Reiner, Director, Wyoming Department of Transportation