

Planning 2.0 preserved and enhanced partnerships with State, local, and tribal governments in the planning process. The rule maintained the coordination and consistency requirements, and it recognized the special roles of State, local, and tribal governments, affording opportunities to participate side-by-side with the BLM as cooperating agencies. The final planning 2.0 rule took meaningful steps to accommodate requests from States and local governments to improve the planning process and to ensure governors were able to raise concerns and fully engage in the planning process, as required by the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act.

As vice chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I closely review Federal actions that affect native people and Indian Country. Under planning 2.0, the right of federally recognized tribes to government-to-government consultation was clearly enumerated and protected. The BLM worked extensively to make sure the new planning process was more inclusive. Planning 2.0 recognized the value of the knowledge, history, and culture that tribes bring to the planning effort. By formalizing the tribal consultation role and providing early and more frequent opportunities for tribes to provide input, the BLM had taken an important step to ensure Indian Country was able to be fully engaged in the process. Repealing planning 2.0 through the CRA now risks ignoring the concerns of tribes in favor of commercial interests and their lobbyists in Washington, DC.

Pressures on BLM lands have increased in scale and complexity, and planning 2.0 encouraged the collection and use of high-quality data. It encouraged flexibility to identify a planning area boundary that reflects the resource issues. By looking at larger landscapes, local offices could have collaborated where there are shared resource issues and could have reduced conflicts and litigation for large-scale projects. Planning 2.0 would have enabled the BLM to set clear goals and allowed local offices to work together on landscape-wide planning where resource issues span multiple administrative jurisdictions.

The rule identified important corridors for wildlife and critical habitats early in the planning process so that those important areas could be managed and conserved in balance with other uses and development decisions. Working across boundaries is especially important to tackle wildfire prevention and eradication of invasive species, which are degrading our public lands and placing neighboring private lands at risk of harm. Efficient and collaborative planning is desperately needed to approve infrastructure projects, pipelines, and energy transmission corridors that are stalled under the current planning process. Eliminating planning 2.0 reinstates a cumbersome and inefficient planning process that increases burdens on industries and the public.

Opponents of the planning 2.0 rule mischaracterized the rule as a last minute “midnight rule” that excluded public comment. This is simply not true. The planning 2.0 initiative went through a transparent rulemaking process over 2 and a half years. The BLM responded to over 3,000 public comments on the draft rule and made critical changes in the final rule. Congress held two hearings on planning 2.0, and the BLM incorporated that information before publishing the final rule. The BLM conducted extensive public outreach through public meetings, webinars, an extended public comment period, and input from a broad spectrum of the public that resulted in significant revisions to the final rule.

However, the CRA resolution disapproving planning 2.0 was accomplished without public hearings and without transparency. Management of our public lands will now revert back to a process that gives commercial interest greater power and the public less opportunity for meaningful involvement.

Opponents of planning 2.0 expressed concern that emphasizing landscape-scale planning could result in the primacy of national objectives over State and local objectives. This is not true. Planning 2.0 did not centralize decisionmaking in Washington, DC, or dilute local control of the planning process. The rule actually allowed for more local community involvement and preserved the priority status for local governments and states in land use planning. Increasing the opportunity for public voices helped develop plans that met the increasingly diverse needs of western communities. Further, the rule did not require all resource management plans to be multistate landscapes. The rule provided the process for planning at larger landscape-scales when it made sense given the resources involved.

The use of the Congressional Review Act to revoke planning 2.0 is a reckless tactic. Specific concerns could and should have been addressed through the regular rulemaking process or targeted legislation by Congress instead. Under the CRA, once Congress passes a resolution of disapproval, the BLM is prohibited from writing a new rule that is “substantially the same” without additional legislative action. As a result, many of the provisions of planning 2.0 that improved the planning process cannot be enacted or proposed again without express congressional approval.

Secretary Zinke has now been confirmed and should have been given the opportunity to consider revising planning 2.0 and making any necessary changes. With passage of H.J. Res. 44, Secretary Zinke will face considerable legal uncertainty, and his authority to reformulate a new planning rule will be limited substantially. This resolution should have been rejected and the new administration given the opportunity to reformulate planning 2.0 and to

make sure the public continued to have a voice in decisions that affect their way of life.

#### KINGSPORT CENTENNIAL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the Tennessee General Assembly’s proclamation recognizing the city of Kingsport, TN, centennial celebration.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### KINGSPORT CENTENNIAL

Whereas, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause in their deliberations to recognize and honor those venerable communities of this State that are marking special occasions in their histories; and

Whereas, the new city of Kingsport was incorporated in 1917, using the historical name of a nearby town that was previously incorporated in 1822 but lost its charter after the Civil War; and

Whereas, Kingsport is the first thoroughly diversified, professionally planned, and privately financed city in twentieth-century America; and

Whereas, Kingsport was the first city in Tennessee, and one of the first in the nation, to adopt the “model city charter” establishing a city manager form of government; and

Whereas, Kingsport was produced by the marriage of New South philosophy and Progressivism, born at a time when capitalists turned their attention to Southern Appalachia; and

Whereas, the seeds planted in 1917 grew to become the corporate headquarters of Eastman, a Fortune 300 company with a significant global presence that has provided economic opportunity for generations of Tennesseans; and

Whereas, early founders coined the term “Kingsport Spirit” to describe the work ethic, can-do attitude, and caring culture that are still widely prevalent today; and

Whereas, Kingsport continues to be a leader in innovation and collaboration to redefine the economic future of Tennessee and Tennesseans; and

Whereas, on this milestone occasion, it is fitting that we recognize and honor the city of Kingsport and its residents: Now, therefore,

I, Randy McNally, Speaker of the Senate of the One Hundred Tenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, at the request of and in conjunction with Senator Jon Lundberg, do hereby proclaim that we honor and commend the fine citizens of Kingsport as they celebrate their city’s centennial and extend to them our best wishes for continued success and prosperity in the future. Proclaimed in Nashville, Tennessee, on this the 13th day of February 2017.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN MEDINGER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor John Medinger on his retirement from Federal and public service. John has dedicated his career to improving the lives of individuals in the La Crosse community and across the State of Wisconsin, most recently as my southwestern Wisconsin regional representative. I am so pleased to celebrate John’s legacy of dedicated public service and positive social change.