

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5000

April 9, 2018

To County Commissioners,

I wanted to follow up on our ongoing work together regarding Wyoming's Wilderness Study Areas. As we've discussed, I'm very grateful for all your hard work, and the input of thousands of constituents across our state as we make progress towards resolving the limbo our WSAs have been in for far too long. Let me thank you again for all you've done — and for all the work we'll continue to do together on this crucial issue.

I am encouraged by the public hearings, discussions, and efforts taking place in counties that are participating in the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative (WPLI), as well as in counties that aren't. The momentum created by these locally driven efforts has provided us with a real opportunity to resolve this decades old issue. I have been approached by commissioners in a number of counties that would like to move forward with their legislative proposals. As we've discussed, I stand ready to support each county as they complete their work and ready their proposals.

To this end, I anticipate drafting and introducing legislation in the coming weeks that will address WSAs in counties where commissioners have asked me to move forward with their recommendations. This includes counties that are either not part of WPLI or counties that are and have completed their work. There will be other opportunities to introduce additional legislation or to add additional counties through amendments as the WPLI process continues, and as this initial WSA bill works through the House Natural Resources Committee hearing and mark-up process. I will be guided by the recommendations I have received from county commissioners, and will work closely with all of you as we put together drafts of the necessary federal legislation in the House.

I thank you again for your ongoing hard work and commitment to ensuring our WSAs are moved out of limbo and resolved in a way that makes most sense for folks in local communities across our state. Additionally, I kindly ask that you share this letter with all stakeholders and interested parties within your county. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns and I'll look forward to seeing you all again soon.

All the best,


Liz Cheney