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United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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1514 Longworth House Office Building
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Member of Congress
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 23, 2023

Karen Kelleher
Idaho State Director
BLM Idaho State Office
1387 South Vinnell Way
Boise, ID 83709

Dear Director Kelleher:

We write to request a minimum 30-day extension of the public comment period for the Lava Ridge draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

In January, the BLM released the Lava Ridge DEIS for a 60-day public comment period, which runs to March 21, 2023. Because of the size and scope of the Lava Ridge project, Volume I of the DEIS exceeds 500 pages. The DEIS also includes multiple volumes and appendixes, along with visual models, that cover dozens of technical topics. Because of the complexity of the DEIS, the public needs additional time to review the DEIS and prepare substantive comments.

The scope of the project affects multiple stakeholders including farmers, ranchers, the Japanese American community, Tribes, water users, aviation, recreational users (including ATV and hunters) and non-profit organizations working to preserve Idaho's wildlife, historic and cultural resources. We note that the indirect Area of Potential Affect (APE) exceeds two million acres and would have impacts on multiple counties and governmental agencies that provide services to the public.

Members of the public are also concerned about the very limited number of printed copies of the DEIS and the difficulty of reviewing the DEIS electronically.

We encourage you to extend the public comment period by 30 days, for a total of 90 days, and print additional copies of the DEIS for public review.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your timely response to our request.

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