



CITY OF KETCHUM

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June 24, 2025

Senator James Risch
350 N. 9th St., Suite 302
Boise, ID 83702

Senator Risch,

The City of Ketchum thanks you for your expressed support of protecting Idaho's public lands. Forest Service and BLM federal lands are a central part of the way of life for our community and for many Idahoans who have utilized public lands for generations for hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, livestock grazing, watching wildlife, and appreciating open and quiet spaces that we are so lucky to have across Idaho. Public lands around our community have been such a critical part of this community for so long that they have become a primary driver of our local economy, bringing in millions of dollars to our community and the state of Idaho through recreation tourism each year.

The City of Ketchum respectfully requests that you utilize your position of authority on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to ensure that no public lands are sold as a part of the Big Beautiful Bill. You are in an important position to ensure that our public lands are protected, and we ask that you take a stance to ensure that we do not lose these precious lands forever. As a government ourselves, we understand budget pressures and the need for more housing, but selling off federal lands for a one-time budget boost will negatively impact Idaho forever, and it is not worth it. Thousands of Idahoans, including many in our community, are grateful that you have heard their pleas to protect our lands, and we urge you to follow through on that promise and ensure that there is no public lands sell-off clause in the final bill. Please vote no for any version of the bill that would jeopardize our public lands. The Idaho way of life relies on you doing so.

Respectfully,

City of Ketchum