

Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

James E. Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress
2084 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress
1514 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 19, 2024

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

We write today to express our profound concern with the continued consideration of the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project in Idaho. Given the outspoken, overwhelming opposition from communities across Idaho and the West, in addition to the latest developments regarding the project's National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance, we feel compelled to urge you once again to adopt the "No-Action Alternative" in the Record of Decision (ROD).

On August 9, 2024, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) terminated its participation in Section 106 consultation under the NHPA for the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) also sent a letter on September 6 to formally terminate its participation as well.

In communication with the BLM, both agencies cited extensive concerns from a wide array of stakeholders including the Idaho Governor, state legislature, local Tribes, Congressional delegation, area residents, the wider Japanese American community, and many others as reason to terminate consultation. These stakeholders have universally rejected the BLM's preferred alternative for Lava Ridge and we are pleased that both the SHPO and ACHP recognized the gravity of the situation. It is not often that either of these agencies back away from a project of this size, and it would be nearly impossible for the BLM to adequately complete this work without their expertise.

Unfortunately, it appears the BLM remains committed to carrying through with the project, regardless of the grave concerns that have long been expressed by Idahoans and the Japanese American community, and are further highlighted by the actions of the SHPO and ACHP. We urge you to issue a Record of Decision selecting the "No-Action Alternative" for the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project and finally give deserved credence to this widespread opposition.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James E. Risch in blue ink.

James E. Risch
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Mike Crapo in blue ink.

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Mike Simpson in blue ink, including the initials "M.C." at the end.

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Russ Fulcher in blue ink.

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress