



State of Utah
School & Institutional
Trust Lands Administration

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Lieutenant Governor

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March 16, 2018

Congressman Chris Stewart
323 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Congressman Jared Polis
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressmen,

On behalf of the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), I am writing in support of the Advancing Conservation and Education Act (ACE Act), H.R. 4257, that you both have been diligent in introducing and supporting for the benefit of state trust lands and public education across the west. SITLA has supported this effort for years and we have appreciated the opportunity to assist in crafting this legislation. As you are aware, Utah has worked diligently over the past 20 years to resolve school trust land tenure issues to improve our ability to generate income from our trust assets. We believe the ACE Act provides a valuable tool that will improve our ability to manage our lands and to insure completion of conservation areas in Utah. We greatly appreciate the Committee's consideration of the ACE Act and look forward to its approval by the Committee.

State trust lands generate over \$3.8 billion annually that goes to benefit of school children through the management of over 500 million acres of lands and minerals. However, millions of acres of state school trust lands and minerals are trapped within wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments and other areas that have been set aside for conservation purposes. This creates a serious management conflict.

Some state trust lands are unable to be used for the purposes for which they were intended because of limited access and the incompatibility of development with the surrounding conservation lands. Further, the development of these state trust inholdings could adversely affect the integrity of the surrounding conservation lands.

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The ACE Act provides a streamlined process by which State and Federal land managers can exchange state trust lands within Federal conservation areas for other public lands that are better suited for revenue generation for public schools. The result of these exchanges is more money for schools and better managed and protected conservation areas. It is classic 'win-win' legislation.

SITLA stands ready to assist your efforts and we greatly appreciate all you are doing on behalf of Utah's school children by improving the management of our school trust assets.

Sincerely,



Dave Ure,
Director