

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 21, 2024

The Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning
Director, Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240

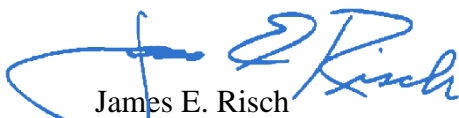
Dear Director Stone-Manning:


We write to express our sincere concerns regarding plans by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to move forward with any action relating to the Lava Ridge Wind Project in Southern Idaho. As we have communicated to you on multiple occasions, this project has received near-unanimous opposition from all involved stakeholders. Your agency has heard from countless local, county, and statewide elected officials; survivors, descendants, and allies of those incarcerated at the Minidoka National Historic Site; local Tribes; grazing allottees; and area residents alarmed by this abuse of Idaho's public lands. The widespread disapproval of the project and potential impacts on Minidoka led the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to terminate consultation with your agency earlier this year.

Outrage and opposition to Lava Ridge is well-documented and growing. On November 19, 2024, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, reported our bill, S. 4936, by voice vote. This bill specifically prohibits any authorization for the Lava Ridge project until the Government Accountability Office—a neutral third party—conducts a comprehensive review of its adverse effects on the Minidoka National Historic Site and other natural and cultural resources. This bipartisan action underscores what Idahoans have been saying all along: this project should not proceed.

The message is clear. Do not approve such a controversial and unwanted project in the final days of this administration. Publishing a favorable Record of Decision at this point would be irresponsible and reprehensible. We urge you to seriously consider the rejection of this project by Idahoans, the Japanese American community, and now the committee of jurisdiction in the United States Senate. Do not move forward with Lava Ridge.

Sincerely,


James E. Risch
United States Senator


Mike Crapo
United States Senator