



CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL

211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Main Line: 928-213-2000

Website: <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov>

June 25, 2025

Senator Mark Kelly
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ruben Gallego
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Opposition to the Sale of Public Lands in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Dear Senator Kelly and Senator Gallego,

On behalf of the City of Flagstaff, I am writing to express our strong opposition to provisions within the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* that would authorize or encourage the sale, transfer, or privatization of federally managed public lands.

Flagstaff is a gateway to some of the most treasured natural landscapes in the United States. Surrounded by the Coconino National Forest, home to the San Francisco Peaks, and within proximity to the Grand Canyon, our city's identity, economy, and cultural heritage are deeply intertwined with public lands. These lands support outdoor recreation, environmental conservation, wildlife protection, and tourism—the backbone of northern Arizona's economic and ecological sustainability.

The proposed sale or transfer of these lands threatens not only the health of our surrounding environment but also undermines the City's infrastructure and natural resources. Over three quarters of the City's drinking water infrastructure is located in National Forest lands. If those lands were to be sold, the City's water agreements could be compromised, invalidating the careful planning the City of Flagstaff has done to ensure future water supply and increasing uncertainty for our residents.

Public lands belong to everyone. We urge Congress to reject any legislative efforts, including those within the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, that promote the divestment or privatization of public lands. Instead, we ask that you work with local communities, Indigenous nations, environmental experts, and recreational stakeholders to uphold the stewardship values that define America's public lands legacy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued service.

Sincerely,

Becky Daggett,
Mayor, City of Flagstaff, on behalf of the Flagstaff City Council