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**Subject:** FLAIR Act Implementation

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Burgum:

Congratulations on your nomination and confirmation as Secretary of the Interior. I am writing to bring to your attention several missed deadlines by the previous administration regarding actions and reports to Congress required by the Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR) Act, Public Law 117-328, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2023, also known as the Omnibus appropriations bill, in Division DD – Public Land Management, Title I Department of the Interior Provisions, Sec. 103, Cadastre of Federal Real Property, beginning on page 2856. Enacted December 29, 2022, the FLAIR Act mandates the creation of a comprehensive, accurate inventory of federal land assets to improve management, transparency, and efficiency. The provision enacted into law is a modified version of S. S.2433 — 117th Congress — introduced by Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND).

Your predecessor, in the Biden Administration, failed to meet several key deadlines outlined in the Act, which has hindered progress in achieving the Act's objectives. These missed deadlines have delayed the development of a unified, searchable database of federal land assets, which is crucial for effective land management, energy development, and other decision-making.

Under the Act, by June 27, 2023, the Secretary of the Interior was required to submit a report to Congress on various issues related to existing Federal land inventory activities --

**(3) Consolidation and report** Not later than 180 days after December 29, 2022, the Secretaries concerned shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing—

**(A)** the existing real property inventories or any components of any cadastre of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Secretary concerned, including—

**(i)** the statutory authorization for each existing real property inventory or component of a cadastre; and

**(ii)** the amount expended by the Federal Government for each existing real property inventory or component of a cadastre in fiscal year 2022;

**(B)** the existing real property inventories or any components of any cadastre of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Secretary concerned that will be eliminated or consolidated into the multipurpose cadastre under paragraph (2);

**(C) (i)** the existing real property inventories or any components of any cadastre of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Secretary concerned that will not be eliminated or consolidated into the multipurpose cadastre under paragraph (2); and

**(ii)** a justification for not eliminating or consolidating an existing real property inventory or component of a cadastre described in clause (i) into the multipurpose cadastre under paragraph (2);

**(D)** the use of existing real property inventories or any components of any cadastre currently maintained by any unit of State or local government that can be used to identify Federal real property within that unit of government;

**(E)** the cost savings that will be achieved by eliminating or consolidating duplicative or unneeded real property inventories or any components of any cadastre of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Secretary concerned that will become part of the multipurpose cadastre under paragraph (2);

**(F)** a plan for the implementation of this section, including a cost estimate and an assessment of the feasibility of using revenue from any transactional activity authorized by law to offset any costs of implementing this section; and

**(G)** recommendations for any legislation necessary to increase the cost savings and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of replacing, eliminating, or consolidating Federal real property inventories or any components of any cadastre of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Secretary concerned.

A current and accurate inventory of federal land is essential for several reasons. First, it enables better stewardship of our public lands by providing a clear understanding of what assets the federal government owns and their respective conditions. This information is

vital for making informed decisions about land use, conservation, and resource management.

Second, a comprehensive land inventory supports the energy priorities you are currently advancing. By having a clear picture of federal land assets, the Department of the Interior can more effectively identify and prioritize areas for energy exploration and development. This aligns with your vision of achieving American energy dominance while ensuring responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

Moreover, creating an inventory of inventories of land can lead to significant cost savings. The concept of "map it once, use it many times" allows for the consolidation of multiple, duplicative land inventories into a single, interoperable system. This not only reduces redundancy and administrative costs but also enhances the accuracy and accessibility of land data for various stakeholders.

In conclusion, I urge you to prioritize the completion of the FLAIR Act's requirements and ensure that the Department of the Interior meets all future deadlines. By doing so, we can achieve a more efficient, transparent, and effective management of our federal lands, ultimately benefiting the American people and supporting our nation's energy goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and continued progress under your leadership. I would be pleased to provide you more information on the FLAIR Act and its benefits and look forward to working with your team on implementation of the Act and meeting the missed deadlines as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

John M. Palatiello

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