

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 23, 2019

Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write with concern regarding Executive Order 13875, issued on June 14, 2019, which requires each executive agency to complete a review of Federal Advisory Committees Act (FACA) committees and subsequently terminate at least one-third of the current committees. Specifically, we are concerned this executive order requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to terminate one-third of its Resource Advisory Councils (RACs).

37 chartered RACs, located across the West, are comprised of 10-15 volunteer members from diverse local interests and backgrounds. Pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the BLM created RACs to engage local citizens, primarily in rural areas, in the responsible management of America's public lands. RACs carry considerable weight in their work to inform public land management decisions on issues related to forestry, recreation, grazing, mining, oil and gas exploration, and wildfire management. RACs have a history of promoting collaboration and helping agencies prevent or resolve litigation. In Oregon, RACs receive federal funding through the Secure Rural Schools program and have been used to help achieve forest management goals, create jobs, and improve forest health.

We are concerned that limiting the number of BLM RACs, coupled with BLM's persistent delays in approving RAC members, will unnecessarily limit public engagement in the management of public resources and will create gaps in these volunteer groups' ability to properly advise the government. In an attempt to give the public a measure of certainty, we request you issue clarification that specifically exempts RACs from Executive Order 13875.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator