MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

June 23, 2011

Governor John Hickenlooper
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper,

I am writing to suggest that we as the Governors of the states that make up the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Sage-Grouse Management Zone 2 (CO, ID, MT, UT and WY) find some time at the upcoming Western Governors' Association meeting to discuss a process that could reduce the potential for listing sage-grouse as an endangered species. Such a listing would have incredibly detrimental effects on all of our states. I do not propose this to be an agenda item for the entire conference; rather I would like to find time for a sidebar discussion about a strategy to pursue in order to preclude a listing decision.

My office recently issued a new Executive Order identifying core population areas as well as management options and stipulations that have been determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet the needs of sage-grouse and their habitat. It is my understanding that you have either taken similar measures or are currently contemplating them. Given the accepted definition of management zones, and the determination that transmission corridors will follow well-defined routes, our states have a great deal in common regarding the sage-grouse.

The purpose of this meeting would be to offer our support and enlist your efforts to determine management objectives for sage-grouse that will address current issues relative to the potential listing of the species. By working across state lines, we can offer assurance that the species is well conserved in a broader sense than individual state plans can achieve alone.

It is my belief that, by being proactive and working on a regional basis, we can address the needs of this species, while at the same time ensuring the economic security of our individual states. I hope to be able to meet with you in Coeur d'Alene later next week. My office will be in contact with your office to determine potential times. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

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