



Guide to Fight the **30 x 30 Land Grab**

April 25, 2021

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(Available for download at: <https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/download>)

How to fight the radical environmental agenda from taking 30% of America's land by 2030.

What Is 30 x 30?

The 30 x 30 program is a plan advanced by radical environmental activists to permanently protect 30% of America's land and oceans by 2030. The program was adopted by the Biden Administration through Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619), signed January 27, 2021.

Proponents argue that climate impacts are human-caused, and permanently preserving 30% of America's land and oceans is necessary to reverse climate change. This action must be taken immediately, they claim, to avoid impacts on the ecosystem and wildlife. However, the science and data do not justify these extreme policy measures.

30 x 30 is an unconstitutional policy shift, moving us from a nation founded on private property principles to one controlled by the administrative state.

Action Items:

To fight this agenda we need your help educating leaders at the local, State and Federal level. Organize your community, pass the local government resolutions opposing 30 x 30, and join the national effort to prevent federal authorization.

1. Contact your County Commissioners and Special District Directors in your area and make sure they are aware of the 30 x 30 agenda.

2.



Ask your local government boards to adopt a Resolution opposing the 30 x 30 agenda. Model Resolutions are available as word document files that can be modified to fit the priorities of your area.

(To download, go to: <https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/download>)

3.

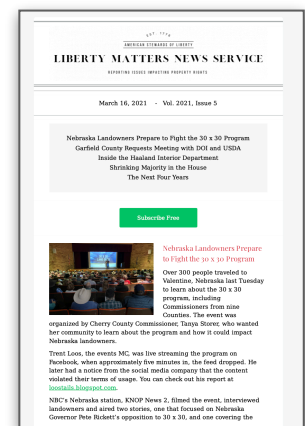
Educate local organizations, neighbors and other affected parties and ask them to support your elected representatives as they take a stand against the program. Unite your community and stand together.

4.

Send us a copy of the adopted resolutions and we will get these to Washington D.C. We will also get you on the national map. (<https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/passed-resolutions>) Email us at asl@americanstewards.us.

5.

Join American Stewards of Liberty. Stand with us and help fund the fight. We will keep you abreast of what is happening across the nation and in Washington D.C. through our *Liberty Matters News Service*. (Go to www.americanstewards.us to get on the list).



10 Key Points

... to know about the 30 x 30 Program

1. The 30 x 30 program is a plan advanced by radical environmental activists calling for the permanent protection of 30 percent of America's lands and oceans by 2030.
2. The plan is being aggressively pushed by the Biden Administration using the politically motivated climate crisis agenda to gain control of American's land. They have promised to use every tool in the toolbox, from conservation programs to federal land acquisitions and withdrawals.
3. There is no scientific reasoning cited in the Executive Order that supports the need to preserve any specific amount of land to "cure" climate change.
4. If restricting land solves climate change and prevents species from going extinct as they claim, we would not be in a climate crisis today. One-third of the United States is already owned by Federal and State governments and managed under restrictive land use protections.
5. Their "crisis" math does not add up. If we are losing a football field (1.32 acres) to development every 30 seconds, as they claim, this roughly totals 11 million acres by 2030. That is far short of the 681 million acres they say must be permanently protected to avoid the forthcoming irreversible climate disaster.
6. There is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, or the Department of Agriculture, to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the U.S., and no such authority is referenced in the Executive Order.
7. Instead of working with States, local governments and stakeholders, the Biden Administration's first act to implement 30 x 30 was to remove local governments veto power over federal land acquisitions, when they rescinded the Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3388.
8. The advocates behind the program do not have any "skin in the game," or property to conserve. Most live in cities fully developed with nothing to give the program except their support behind placing other people's land and property rights under the control of the administrative state.
9. Taking 30 percent of our lands and oceans is only the first step. Advocates are working towards the international goal, known as the "Half-Earth" agenda, to permanently conserve 50 percent of our lands and oceans by 2050.
10. If proponents were truly concerned about the welfare of species and habitat, they would oppose placing more land under federal management or environmental elites control and instead remove the regulatory restrictions on America's landowners who provide the best habitat, while producing the necessary food, fiber, minerals, and energy we depend on to create wealth, defend our liberties, and live free.

Fact Sheet

The 30 x 30 Program

1. What is the 30 x 30 program?

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2. Who is behind the 30 x 30 program?

In 2019, the progressive organization Center for American Progress (CAP) published the primary report supporting the 30 x 30 program, entitled "How Much Nature Should America Keep." This was followed by a Resolution calling for the 30 x 30 program to be introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. One of the Senate co-sponsors was current Vice President, Kamala Harris. On the House side, one of the key co-sponsors was Representative Debra Haaland, now the Secretary of the Department of Interior.

CAP was founded through funding from George Soros backed Foundations. It is supported by well-known progressive elites, including Michael Bloomberg. Its board of directors includes John Podesta (Chair), Stacey Abrams, Julián Castro, and Senator Tom Daschle.

The Defenders of Wildlife, League of Conservation Voters, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society Action Fund, The Wildlands Network, Center for Biological Diversity, and other environmental organizations have also been actively promoting the agenda.

3. Under what law is the 30 x 30 program authorized?

There is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 % of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008.

4. What is the scientific basis for the program?

There is no scientific reasoning cited in the Executive Order. The CAP report has numerous citations, but most of them are to press releases and opinion papers issued by like-minded advocacy groups and international reports. There are a few references to scientific papers relying on principles of conservation biology, none of which prove climate change theories or demonstrates that 30% of

Fact Sheet (continued)

all land and water in the United States must be preserved to maintain biological diversity.

5. How have they determined 30% of land must be set aside by 2030?

As stated above, 30 x 30 proponents have not cited any hard scientific evidence that supports taking 30% of our land and water. However, they do claim that because they believe we are losing a football field worth of land every 30 seconds to development, it is urgent that they permanently protect 30% of the land in its natural state by 2030.

Norm James, a natural resource attorney with Fennemore Craig, ran the numbers to see if this theory is justified in his article “The 30 x 30 Land Grab.” Here is what he concluded:

- Proponents claim we are losing a football field of land every 30 seconds, which amounts to losing roughly 2 acres per minute, or about 3,000 acres per day. That equals 1.1 million acres per year, or 11 million acres per decade (by 2030) that they claim will be lost.

- By contrast, 11 million acres is just 0.5% of all land in the U.S. (out of 2.27 billion acres), and only 1.7% of the land already owned by the federal government (640 million acres). That figure does not include Tribal land, which is likely to be unaffected by the 30x30 program due to the federal government’s trust responsibilities.

- Proponents state that 12% of the land in the U.S. is already “permanently protected” — over 274 million acres of land. What is already protected is 25 times the amount of land that purportedly will be lost over the next 10 years.

If 274 million acres of land are already permanently protected, and according to the proponents numbers, only an estimated 11 million acres might be removed from its natural state by 2030, why must they have 681 million acres in the next 9 years? The science does not justify this enormous taking.

Additionally, it insinuates that rural landowners are incapable of properly caring for the land, which is why the administrative state must assume control of these decisions.

Based on the numbers alone, it appears the program is being pushed not for scientific purposes, but rather to usher in a fundamental policy shift that erodes constitutional protections by placing vast tracts of land, both private and federal, off-limits to economic use and development.

6. Is the long-term agenda to take 50% of America’s land and oceans?

While 30% by 2030 is the target proponents are aggressively pursuing today, the CAP report sets a long-term goal of permanently preserving 50% of our lands and oceans by 2050. This is set forth as Principle number 8 in the CAP report, and has been stated by other radical organizations that oppose land and resource development, such as the Center for Biological Diversity and the Wildlands Network.

7. What qualifies as land “permanently protected in its natural state?”

The EO is not clear on what land is being targeted for the program or how it would be managed. But it appears that this land would be set aside permanently and be off-limits to most human use.

Fact Sheet (continued)

For example, in asserting that only 12% of America's land is permanently protected in its natural state, the CAP report included national parks, wilderness areas, permanent conservation easements, state parks, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, or other protected areas.

8. How will they pay for the program?

The EO does not address what funding mechanism will be used. However, one likely vehicle will be through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which receives \$900 million annually for land acquisition and conservation projects. Former Secretary of Interior, David Bernhardt, under President Trump, had issued a Secretarial Order that allowed local governments and the States to veto a land acquisition project proposed through the LWCF. However, on February 11, 2021, the Acting Secretary appointed by President Biden revoked that order. Now, land acquisitions can be aggressively pursued without interference from the State or local communities directly impacted.

E&E News reported this policy shift as follows:

*Critics said this move [the Bernhard Order] would have prevented conservation efforts in states where more **conservative leaders are sensitive about losing too much private land...*** ("Biden dumps Trump's LWCF changes, revives urban grants," February 11, 2021) (Emphasis added)

Many States in the U.S. are comprised predominantly of private land and, as a result, have some of the most productive, ecologically diverse

areas in the nation, which proponents of 30 x 30 would arguably like to have. That the critics were concerned Bernhard's Order would have prevented them from acquiring these lands where presumably private property rights are protected, should alarm every landowner.

Additionally, LWCF monies are to prioritize projects and acquisitions near or adjacent to existing protected areas. That means those areas that already have large protected federal land holdings, or private lands with conservation easements, are primary target areas through the use of LWCF monies.

9. Will private land be targeted for the program?

The Biden Administration has not released specific targets it is considering for the program. However, the CAP report states that 60% of land in the contiguous 48 States is privately owned, but only 1% is permanently protected. They also conclude that "more than three-quarters of the natural area that the United States lost in the contiguous 48 states from 2001 to 2017 was on private lands." (Page 11). This suggests efforts will be made to move private lands into conservation programs that could lead to permanent protection.

Again, they reiterate the call to work with private landowners to conserve the land. But now that they have denied States and local governments the ability to oppose land acquisitions under LWCF, it is foreseeable that regulatory pressures and conservation incentive programs will be advanced to move lands towards permanent protection.

Fact Sheet (continued)

10. Are federal lands a primary target for the program?

It is likely that a substantial portion of the land and water that will be preserved will come from the land owned by the federal government in the 11 contiguous western states and Alaska.

As stated earlier, the LWCF seeks to acquire lands that are near or adjacent to areas already under permanent protection, creating the core reserves and connected corridors environmental activists have long been advocating for. This makes the federal lands bordering areas such as national parks, national monuments, wilderness areas, and refuges a likely candidate. Additionally, private lands that border protected areas, such as inholdings, are also on the table.

11. Is there legislation to authorize the 30 x 30 program?

Environmental advocacy groups are pressing Congress to incorporate the 30 x 30 agenda into bills related to land and ocean management, as well as appropriations. E & E News reported on this effort:

“Advocates involved in advancing the 30x30 effort cautioned behind the scenes again and again that the end result will not be a single, sprawling piece of legislation.

‘It may in some ways be akin to taking action on climate change,’ said [Alex] Taurel [conservation program manager at the League of Conservation Voters.].

‘There’s not one law that will exactly tackle that crisis or get us to 100% clean energy. It’s going to be a mix of things.’

In addition to the farm bill, appropriations measures and infrastructure and stimulus packages, individual bills being eyed for 30x30 contributions include the ‘Recovering America’s Wildlife Act,’ which would authorize new funding to protect endangered habitats.” (“Biden embraces ambitious conservation plan. Will Congress?” E & E Daily, January 28, 2021).

The U.S. House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis issued a report last session with recommendations on how to implement the 30 x 30 agenda. Among calling for a revision of existing land management laws, the Majority Staff Report also signaled using existing tools:

“Congress should prioritize conserving designated lands and waters through high-value protection designations and avoid designations that keep lands and waters open to industrial and extractive uses. On lands, this 30x30 effort should include incentives for high-quality conservation on private lands; encourage cross-jurisdictional collaboration at a landscape level with states, tribes, and local governments; expand the number and size of national parks, national monuments, and national wildlife refuges on public lands; establish wildlife corridors; and protect wilderness-quality lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). DOI and other land management agencies should maintain protective measures for current Wilderness Study Areas; these areas should be a priority for congressional wilderness designation.” (“Solving the Climate Crisis,” Majority Staff Report, US House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, June 2020)

Fact Sheet (continued)

12. Will the Administration work with landowners to implement the program?

While there is language in the CAP report, the House and Senate Resolutions, and the Executive Order stating the intent is to work with landowners and local representatives, there is no direction on how this will be carried out. Section 216 of the Executive Order simply states the intent as follows:

“Sec. 216. Conserving Our Nation’s Lands and Waters. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the heads of other relevant agencies, shall submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.”

Although this language sounds promising, the first action taken to implement the program has been to prevent State and local governments from opposing the federal acquisition of land by revoking the Bernhardt Secretarial Order. States, local governments, and stakeholders should hold the President to his word and insist on having a significant say in the design and management of the program.

13. What is the next step in implementing the program?

The EO directs the Department of Interior to lead the other relevant federal departments to provide a report within 90 days of the signing of the Order that sets forth the steps necessary to achieve the objective. However, it is clear from the new LWCF Secretarial Order that the agencies are already taking aggressive steps to remove barriers that might prevent them from successfully achieving their agenda.

Key Documents:

Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619), signed January 27, 2021

Department of Interior, Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action to Uphold Commitment to Restore Balance on Public Lands and Waters, Invest in Clean Energy Future, January 27, 2021

“How Much Nature Should America Keep,” Center for American Progress, August 2019

“Solving the Climate Crisis,” Majority Staff Report, US House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, June 2020

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REPORTING ISSUES IMPACTING PROPERTY RIGHTS

Fifteen Governors Take Stand Against 30 x 30

(LMNS April 21, 2021) Fifteen Governors signed a joint letter noticing President Biden that section 216 of the Climate Crisis Executive Order (14008), to conserve 30 percent of America's lands by 2030, "infringes on the sovereignty of the states and rights of the citizens."

Led by Nebraska's Pete Ricketts, who was the first Governor to oppose 30 x 30, the letter was signed by the Governors of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Utah.

Representing both federal land and private land states, the Governors have united to defend State sovereignty and private property rights. They state:

"Some of us govern western states with massive amounts of lands in the categories mentioned above or other federal designations that should be considered as 'conserved.' We are deeply concerned about any effort to enlarge the federal estate or further restrict the use of public lands in our states.

And even for those of us leading states without swaths of federal land, we oppose any increase in land use restrictions on lands under our state jurisdiction. Assuming there is some authority which would allow the program, obtaining the 30 percent goal from state or private lands would require your Administration to condemn or otherwise severely limit the current productive uses of such lands, infringing on the private property rights of our citizens and significantly harming our economies."

The Governors included a list of detailed questions as to how the program would be implemented and noted that very little information has been shared with the States. They note: *"It is precisely because we depend on our lands to be available for future generations to enjoy and*

use, without greater input into this initiative, we must resist implementation of the 30 x 30 program."

House Resource Republican Members Admonish Administration

(April 14, 2021) In response to the 62 members of the U.S. House and Senate letter opposing 30 x 30 and requesting a full briefing on the proposal (letter dated March 16, 2021), the White House finally provided Congressional staff members with a briefing that included a short ten minute presentation and a round of questions.

While Congressional Staff focused on asking specifics about the program, the White House indicated these decisions have yet to be made. Very little, if any new information was conveyed to Congress, which led to a sharply worded letter signed by every Republican member of the House Resources Committee. In its opening paragraph, the Congressmen note:

"Administration officials, however, deflected questions, provided vague responses, or simply acknowledged inquiries as 'really hard question[s]'. The continued lack of information heightens concern from our constituents that the Administration will use the 30 by 30 initiative to facilitate a radical federal land and water grab."

After pointing out that the White House staff failed to answer basic questions such as how "conservation" would be defined, what lands would be counted towards the effort, and how private land conservation would be measured, they questioned how the Administration could have endorsed specific pieces of legislation as meeting the 30 x 30 goal.

"Despite the fact that these basic questions could not be answered during the engagement session, in February the Administration released a Statement of Administration Policy endorsing H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act.

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REPORTING ISSUES IMPACTING PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Administration's endorsement stated that as 'consistent with the recommendation of scientists that . . . the Nation must pursue a goal of conserving at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and ocean by 2030.' It is extremely concerning that the Administration knew enough about what was "consistent" with 30 by 30 to endorse legislation being considered by the House of Representatives that would limit multiple-use and create millions of acres of new wilderness, yet did not know enough to answer rudimentary inquiries at a staff-level briefing."

Formal authorization for the 30 x 30 program must come from Congress, which has the sole authority to manage federal lands. Although the lack of transparency on 30 x 30 should be a bipartisan concern, to date, no Democrat Representatives, Senators or Governors have objected to the 30 x 30 program.

Nebraska and Kansas AG's Warn Biden Administration of Federal Overreach

(LMSN April 13, 2021) On April 8, 2021, the Nebraska and Kansas State Attorneys General co-signed a letter to the Secretary of Interior stating that they are prepared to defend their state's and landowners' property rights from the 30 x 30 program.

The Attorneys General emphasized that they are closely watching the Administration's efforts to implement 30 x 30 and are ready to defend the rights of their states and its citizens, if necessary.

"This 30 by 30 provision in the Executive Order appears to represent yet another federal overreach into private property rights and state and local authority. America does not have, nor does it want, a centrally planned economy. Rest assured, we will be closely monitoring the actions taken in response to this presidential directive and will take action as necessary to protect private property rights and the role of states in land and water management decisions."

Norman James, an attorney with Fennemore Craig, points out that the states are on strong footing, especially in light of the Supreme Court's recognition of the rights of states to regulate land and water uses. One example is *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, 531 U.S. 159 (2001). That decision addressed EPA and the Corps of Engineers interpretation of "waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act, which extended federal jurisdiction to intrastate waters used by migratory birds.

The court, in holding that the agencies had exceeded their authority, found that the rule would interfere with the states' traditional powers over land and water use: "[P]ermitting respondents to claim federal jurisdiction over ponds and mudflats falling within the 'Migratory Bird Rule' would result in a significant impingement of the States' traditional and primary power over land and water use."

The AG's letter is a significant development. Instead of waiting for the Biden Administration to provide details on how it intends to reach the 30 percent goal, the AG's are already asserting their commitment to defend the constitutional limitations placed on the federal government and protect the rights of state and local governments to decide how land and water may be used.

Local Government Groundswell Opposing 30 x 30 Grows

(April 25, 2021) Counties across the five states of Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Idaho, Nevada, and South Dakota have now passed resolutions opposing 30 x 30. Lead by Garfield County, Colorado, which passed the first Resolution on February 16, 2021, counties, soil and water conservation districts and regional government associations have begun the process of adopting policies opposing the 30 x 30 program. To see who is on the map, go to <https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/passed-resolutions>.

Resources



a 501(c)(3) non profit
organization dedicated to
protecting property rights.

PO Box 801
Georgetown, TX 78627
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How do we fight the 30 x 30 program?

- **We educate:** Elected leaders, our friends and neighbors. Share this Guide and the Resolution Appendix with your elected officials and make sure they know where you stand. It is vital that you support their efforts to oppose the program on your behalf.
- **We speak out:** In public meetings and in the press. Send letters to the editor of your local and regional papers. Support the positive articles and challenge the ideas of those who are pushing the 30 x 30 agenda.
- **We prepare:** Review the existing land use policies of your counties and special district, and, if necessary update plans with policies that protect property rights and the productive uses of land.
- **We coordinate:** Help your local governments implement coordination with the federal agencies, which gives your local bodies a seat at the table and path to require conflicts with local policies be resolved. (Go to <https://americanstewards.us/coordination/> for more information)
- **We stand together.** When programs are pushed to restrict lands in your area, stand with your neighbors in opposition. When programs are pushed at the national level, answer the calls to action to stop authorization of the program. Join American Stewards and sign up for the Liberty Matters News Service to stay informed and ready to mobilize.

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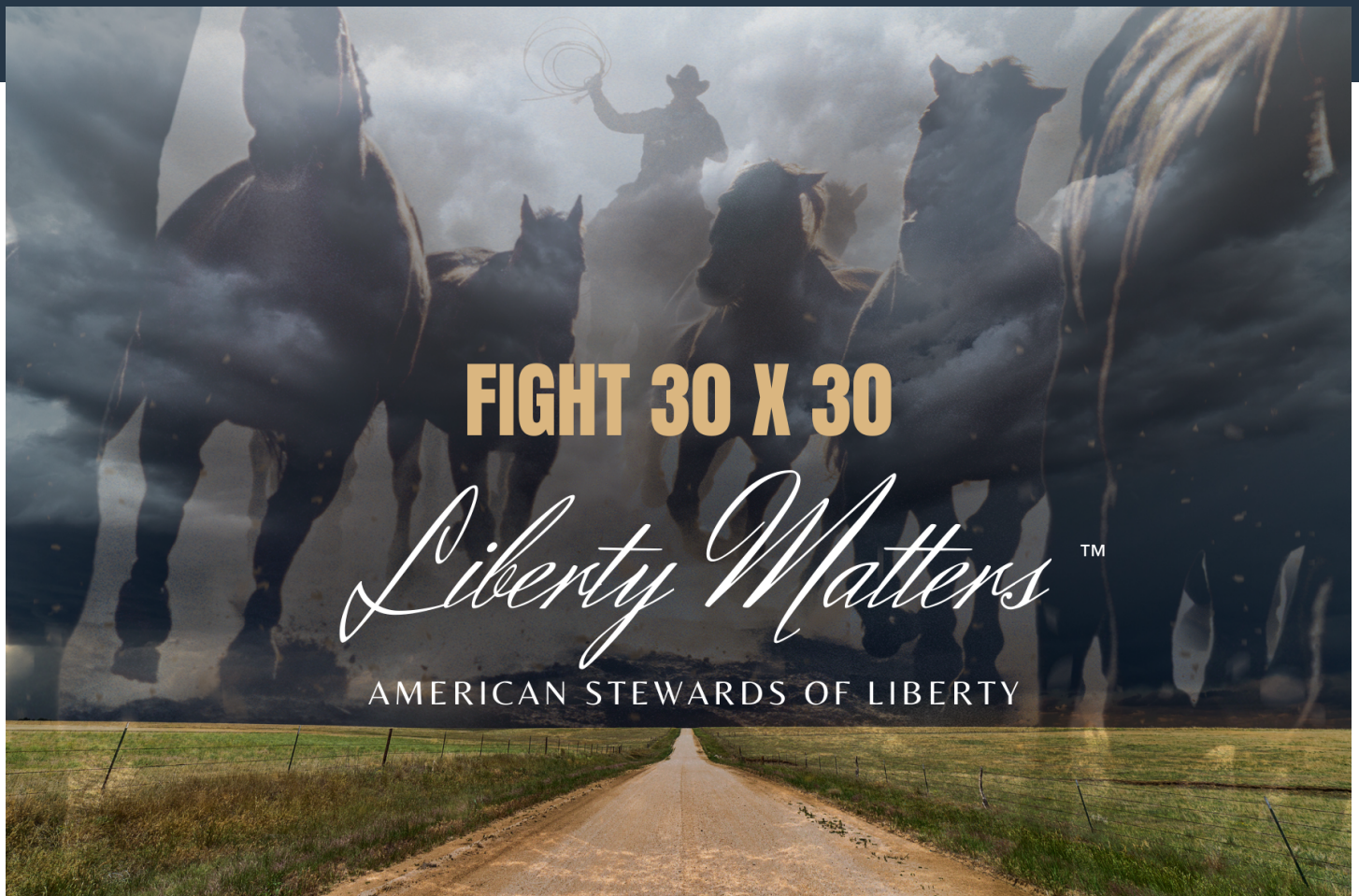
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