

RESOLUTION 21-05-CC-02
SWEETWATER COUNTY
OPPOSITION TO FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASE MORATORIUM

WHEREAS, Sweetwater County is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Wyoming for which the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to act for said body corporate and politic pursuant to W.S. §18-2-101; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to W.S. 18-3-504(a)(v) the Board has authority to represent the county, including but not limited to representing the county as a cooperating agency with special expertise in matters related to National Environmental Policy Act and in federal land planning, implementation and management actions, in caring for the county property, protecting the economic base of the county, and managing the business and concerns of the county; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to W.S. 18-5-208, when representing a county as a cooperating agency in matters related to federal land planning, implementation and management actions, a Board "shall be deemed to have special expertise on all subject matters for which it has statutory responsibility, including but not limited to, all subject matter directly or indirectly related to the health, safety, welfare, custom, culture and socio-economic viability of the county; and

WHEREAS, Sweetwater County Wyoming has a total area of 10,491 square miles. Sweetwater County is the largest county in Wyoming, is larger than six states and is the eighth largest county in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the federal government including Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns approximately 70% of the land or 4.5 million acres within Sweetwater County; and

WHEREAS, because of the predominance of federal land in Sweetwater County, the health, safety, welfare, custom, culture and socioeconomic viability of the county, its businesses and its citizens depend on the manner in which these lands and their resources are used and access to these lands; and

WHEREAS, many of Sweetwater County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize federal lands and their resources, including the forest products, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, trona and other mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the Wyoming economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social well-being of Sweetwater County and its citizens. In 2019, the trona, coal, oil and gas on federal land contributed 57.95% of the total mineral valuation or \$871,966,897.00 in assessed value. These

federal land assessments amount to more than 37% of Sweetwater County's total assessed valuation; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, immediately following President Biden's Executive Order 14008 the Secretary, through the U.S. Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management (collectively the Secretary), has indefinitely suspended all federal oil and gas lease sales and many other public land decisions; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2021 the State of Wyoming filed a Petition for Review of Final Agency Action opposing the suspension of all federal oil and gas lease sales declaring the moratorium to be a violation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the federal Resource Management Plans, the Mineral Leasing Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the federal Administrative Procedure Act; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wyoming and Sweetwater County already have an abundance of protected federal land managed for conservation of natural resources including, but not limited to Yellowstone National Park, multiple wilderness study areas, National forests, National Recreation Areas, Wildlife Refuges, and recreation areas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sweetwater County, Wyoming as follows:

1. The Board opposes Executive Order 14008.
2. The Board opposes the Secretary's moratorium on oil and gas lease sales as a due process violation as outlined by Wyoming's Petition for Review of Final Agency Action.
3. The Board opposes any Executive Order which circumvents the lawful notice to and participation by Sweetwater County in valid discussions regarding multiple use.
4. The Board opposes Section 216 of Executive Order 14008 directing the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the "30 x 30" program because the land already set aside in Wyoming is well above the objectives and both the U.S. Department of Interior and Agriculture must recognize this important fact.
5. The Board opposes the implementation of said Executive Orders and related actions without a rational transition plan that does not address the health, safety, welfare, custom, culture and socioeconomic impacts to the citizens of Sweetwater County and Wyoming.

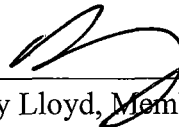
6. Sweetwater County fully supports the State of Wyoming's actions and Petition opposing Executive Order 14008.

Dated this 18th day of May, 2021

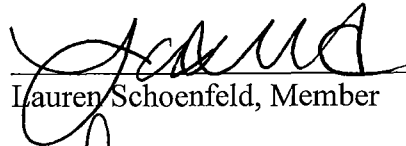
THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF SWEETWATER
COUNTY, WYOMING



Randal M. Wendling, Chairman



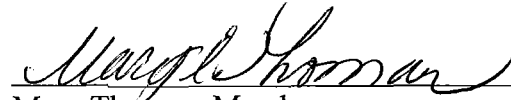
Roy Lloyd, Member



Lauren Schoenfeld, Member



Jeffrey W. Smith, Member



Mary Thoman, Member

ATTEST




Cynthia L. Lane, County Clerk
