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www.hellgatehuntersandanglers.org

October 18th, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman, Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Nat-
ural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act (S. 1493)


Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso,

Hellgate Hunters & Anglers (HHA) works to conserve Montana's wildlife, wild places, and fair chase hunting and fishing heritage. With almost 400 members, HHA is the largest local sportsmen's group in Western Montana. We have supported the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act (BCSA) since its initial introduction and ask for your support.

Many of our members recreate throughout the Blackfoot and Clearwater valleys, which provide some of the best hunting and fishing in western Montana. Through the collaborative efforts of multiple user groups, including ranchers, loggers, and sportsmen and women, the legacy of conservation in these areas runs deep. While we appreciate the inherent challenges associated with land protection efforts, the BCSA is a prime example of how varied and disparate interests can unite around a landscape and achieve proactive goals when it comes to federal land management. This is the Montana way, and we're proud of the work we've accomplished.

Rarely does a conservation-focused bill benefit such a wide range of user groups and promise such immediate and important economic returns for local communities dependent on outdoor recreation, timber and agriculture. Consideration of this bill on the Senate floor is long overdue; we hope that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will recognize that this legislation, which enjoys the support of 80 percent of Montana's hunters and anglers, and move towards swift passage. We urge the members of the Committee to support the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act and recognize the hard work of Montanans who have worked for years in developing this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walker Conyngham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Walker Conyngham, President
Hellgate Hunters & Anglers