

Coburn Amdt 3461- Redirect FLTFA Receipts towards Maintenance Backlog and Deficit Reduction

Coburn Amendment 3461 would prioritize federal funds by directing half of the receipts from land sales through FLTFA towards deficit reduction and half towards fixing crumbling structures and roads on federal lands

The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) should be modernized to address budget priorities

- FLTFA is a program that provides for the sale of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands that have been identified for disposal and places the proceeds from the sales into a special account, the Federal Land Disposal Account, to be used for land acquisition
- FLTFA provides a worthwhile function of identifying unneeded federal lands for disposal
- However, Congress should use the receipts from these funds for our most pressing needs including containing an exploding national debt that is over \$17.5 trillion and rising and an enormous \$13.5 billion to \$19.9 billion maintenance backlog on federal lands
- Spending FLTFA receipts for more land acquisition is not a priority for a federal government that already owns 30 percent of all the land(650 million acres) in the United States and spends between \$250 and \$450 million annually on land acquisition through the Land and Water Conservation Fund(LWCF)

The federal government has a staggering \$20+ billion maintenance backlog on federal lands

- In 2011, the Department of Interior estimates that there is between a \$17.45 and \$22.65 billion deferred maintenance backlog on federal lands
- This includes more than \$11.5 billion in the National Park System
- Despite the exploding growth of the overall maintenance backlog, Congress has appropriated nearly \$3 billion on purchasing more land since 2001
- Purchasing additional lands only serves to compound the deferred maintenance backlog faced by the Department of Interior, adding more commitments to a land base that has already proven cannot be maintained
- Coburn amdt #3461 will help provide a solution, rather than adding to the problems faced on federal lands

A \$17.5 trillion national debt, not a lack of federal lands, remains the largest issue facing our nation

- Given our nation's fiscal condition, there is no higher priority right now than reducing our deficit and paying down our national debt
- Both the Congressional Budget Office(CBO) and the President's National Fiscal Commission recommended selling excess federal lands for the purposes of deficit reduction
- Congress must make responsible, common-sense budget reforms, including prioritizing deficit reduction over land acquisition