

Rep. Lauren Boebert
Opening Statement
Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Federal Lands Legislative Hearing
Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 2:00 PM in Longworth 1324

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am proud to testify in support of H.R. 2997, my Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields—the CONVEY Act.

This common-sense bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey 31.1 acres of land, that the federal government no longer wishes to manage to Mesa County for economic development in Clifton, Colorado. Mesa County will purchase the land for fair market value.

For over five years, Mesa County has been stuck in red tape as they have been diligently pursuing the acquisition of this parcel of land that is on the BLM disposal list. This land holds immense value for Mesa County as it presents a critical opportunity for economic development in Clifton, an area of the county that has struggled economically.

Our witness today Rose Pugliese worked on this issue back when she served as a Mesa County Commissioner with BLM to try and get this land exchange done administratively. I am happy she is here today to testify to help close the loop on this issue and finally move this commonsense land conveyance forward.

I have worked closely with BLM, who supports this bill, and the Mesa County commissioners to cut through the bureaucracy and expedite this process for Mesa County. The economic potential of this land will allow Mesa County to attract job creators and foster an environment that encourages economic prosperity for Clifton. Once Mesa County is able to secure the land, they will establish an economic development board to solicit input from local stakeholders.

My bill also ensures that the funds from the sale of this land will be deposited into the Federal Land Disposal Account, established by the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and retained by the Bureau of Land Management Colorado office, so these funds will actually be used in Colorado.

More than 55% of my District, and 73% of Mesa County's land area is federal land. As Mesa County continues to grow, the county is significantly limited in the land it has available to develop. These large federal footprints often stifle local communities that lack power in decision-making over the land in their own backyards from moving forward on important development opportunities.

I am proud to empower local communities and jumpstart rural economies through innovative solutions that reduce our federal footprint and cut bureaucratic red tape that is stifling economic growth with the CONVEY Act.

I urge passage of my bill through committee and with that, I yield back.