

David Worcester
Hill City, Graham County, KS

December 5, 2021

2021 Special Committee on the 30 x 30 Federal Initiative

To Committee Chair, Representative Ken Rajhes:

This testimony is opposed to the Federal 30 x 30 Initiative Program that the Administration of President Biden is seeking to implement.

I am opposed to the 30 x 30 measures the government is seeking to take, because farming is my livelihood. I have participated in CRP and Equip programs for years, but currently, very little of my land is in these programs, because the 30 x 30 Initiative does not seem to be in my best interest, nor the interest of my children, nor of my rural community. It looks like the government is trying to take land from private owners—for good, and I am very uncomfortable with these measures. Those trying to implement these measures are not being up-front with people, and we have very little information about what all these measures will entail, for how long, etc.

In recent months, the federal government already put a bunch of land into conservation for national parks. When is enough, enough, with this program? And it seems to me that taking land that is used for producing food for our people and making it so that land can no longer be used to produce food is NOT in the best interest of this country, either.

By taking away private land, the government will be taking the freedom of the American people to make a living and to live the life of their choosing. This land has been in my family for generations. Without this land, I don't know what we will do for income. We would probably have to move to the big cities. But we don't have skills for jobs in big cities. I've farmed all my life. Farming is what I know. Not big city living. And if you kill farming, you kill rural communities. Can big cities handle extra mouths to feed without the agricultural production that we have now? I doubt it.

The people in rural communities already know that the land has to be conserved, otherwise they won't be able to continue to use the land in a productive way. If farmers and ranchers hurt the land and make it unproductive, they won't be able to continue making a living. We ARE conserving the land.

I appreciate your time to consider my concerns, and we would appreciate if the committee would honor our wishes as American citizens and the freedom that our constitution provides for the individual right to own private property.

Landowner and US citizen,
David Worcester

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