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I oppose the goals of the proposed *30 x30 Executive Order 14008* by President Biden to place 30 percent of the United States in Conservation and Preservation by the year 2030. The *Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful* report by the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) lays out the means to achieve the goals expressed in the Executive Order. Particularly is *Principle 8 : Build on Existing Tools and Strategies with an Emphasis on Flexibility and Adoptive Approaches*; it sets forth the way to complete the goals. This discusses how to use the current programs and processes in place to achieve the recommendations of the 30 x 30 Executive Order. It emphasizes the creation of additional National Park Service Units under the National Park Service (NPS).

National Heritage Areas (NHA) fall under the DOI and the NPS which is charged with oversight responsibilities. Per the Cooperative agreement between the DOI, the NPS, and the Territorial Kansas Heritage Alliance Inc, for the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area; agree "*to cooperate together to assure federal laws pertain to preservation and conservation are properly applied.*" (see; Appendix A, page 96 of the FFNHA management plan)

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) Director Kelly Sartorius has repeatedly stated during County Commissioner's Meetings that 30 x 30 and National Heritage Areas are not connected. Per the enabling Legislation "*to use preservation, conservation education, interpretation and recreation in Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri in heritage development*" this is to be done in accordance with the Management Plan. (see; National Heritage Areas Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-338, 120 Stat. 1783). Page 4-22 of the Freedoms Frontiers NHA management plan calls for the encouragement of communities to create public preservation policies. It states: "*Advocate for the adoption of local preservation ordinances and preservation plans.*" Then beginning on page 4-29 there is an entire section dedicated to the preservation of natural resources and the regions landscapes (see; Recreation & Natural Resource Conservation Plan).

There is justification within the current legislation and management plans for the NPS to use NHA's as a means to further the governments push to increase conservation and preservation of land within the United States. The NPS controls the distribution of authorized funds to the NHA. Under the newly proposed

legislation, Senate Bill 1942, they would take a more direct role in the management of all NHA's.

While it can be said there is no direct statement in EO 14008 that National Heritage Areas are to be used to ensure that 30 percent of the United States is set aside in conservation by 2030, there are financial and jurisdictional motives for the DOI to use the programs in place under their oversight to achieve that directive.

My experience with the federal government is that the devil is in the details. Like the enabling legislation for the NHA's stating the management plan is the detail of what the NHA's are supposed to do and accomplish. Mission statements and vision statements are broad and ambiguous for a reason to allow the flexibility to change to meet future stipulations. Therefore the State needs to put forth some restrictions on how NHA's boundaries are determined and managed.

I believe the local governments at the county level should have a say in whether they should be included within the jurisdiction of the NHA boundaries. The local governments have the most at risk in the implementation of increased conservation and preservation efforts. Land that is set aside for parks pays no local taxes and land in some conservation programs lose tax value for the local municipalities. Conservation and preservation practices can hinder or help economies the same way that local zoning policies and regulations influence them. Therefore the State legislature needs to provide some type of buffer for the local governments to make resolutions or ordinances that allow them to best meet their goals.

I urge you to explore and consider legislation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Cushing', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Cushing