114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION  
H. R. _____

To foster greater State and local community involvement in Federal land management decisions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Zinke introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ______________________

A BILL

To foster greater State and local community involvement in Federal land management decisions, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Agriculture, Conservation, and Recreation, and Empowering States Act” or the “Protecting ACRES Act”.

SEC. 2. CONDITIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION
OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS.

Section 320301(a) of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “The” and inserting the following:

“(1) In general.—Subject to the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3), the”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) Notice and comment.—

“(A) Parties.—Not less than 1 year before a declaration under paragraph (1), the President shall submit written notice of intent to make a declaration to, and solicit comment from—

“(i) each county, borough, and parish created pursuant to State law that has boundaries within, abutting, or adjacent to lands in which all or part of the new or expanded national monument would be located;

“(ii) the wildlife management and land management authority of each State in which all or part of the new or expanded national monument would be located; and
“(iii) each governor of a State in which all or part of the new or expanded national monument is or would be located.

“(B) PROCEDURES.—The notice and comment required under subparagraph (A) shall meet the required procedures of section 202(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712(f)).

“(3) LIMITATIONS.—A declaration under paragraph (1) shall not take effect if, at the time of the declaration—

“(A) a county, borough, or parish created pursuant to State law that has boundaries within, abutting, or adjacent to lands in which all or part of the new or expanded national monument would be located has passed a resolution disapproving of the declaration;

“(B) with respect to a new or expanded national monument that would be equal to or greater than 5,000 contiguous acres, the governor of a State in which all or part of the national monument is or would be located has informed the Secretary in writing that the governor disapproves of the declaration;
“(C) an owner of private property that has any boundary within the lands in which all or part of the new or expanded national monument would be located has not submitted to the Secretary informed written consent to the declaration; or

“(D) the President is not in substantial compliance with the requirements of paragraph (2).”.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL LAND CONSULTATIONS.


(1) in section 202—

(A) in subparagraph (c)(9), by inserting “Such officials are also authorized to advise the Secretary of potential impacts proposed land use plans may have on a unit of local government that has boundaries within, abutting, or adjacent to lands included in the development or revision of land use plans.” after “referred to them by him.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (f)—

(i) by striking “where appropriate”; and

and
(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“Such procedures shall require that—

“(1) not less than 60 days before the deadline to submit comment on a proposed development or revision of a land use plan, the Secretary shall—

“(A) print not less than two notices in a local newspaper of each county, borough, and parish created pursuant to State law that has boundaries within, abutting, or adjacent to lands that are included in the proposed development or revision of a land use plan that each detail—

“(i) the nature of the proposed development or revision of a land use plan;

“(ii) the date, time, and place of the public meetings described in subparagraph (D);

“(iii) the deadline for submitting comments;

“(iv) the procedure for submitting comments; and

“(v) any restrictions on a person’s eligibility to submit comments;
“(B) send written notice of the proposed development or revision of a land use plan, including the information described in clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) to—

“(i) units of local governments that have boundaries within, abutting, or adjacent to lands that are included in the proposed development or revision of a land use plan;

“(ii) owners of land that has boundaries within, abutting, or adjacent to lands that are included in the proposed development or revision of a land use plan; and

“(iii) and other affected persons, as determined by the Secretary.

“(C) meet at least once with elected leadership of the governing body of each county, borough, and parish created pursuant to State law that has boundaries within, abutting, or adjacent to lands that are included in the proposed development or revision of a land use plan; and

“(D) hold not less than two public meetings within each county, borough, and parish created pursuant to State law that has boundaries within, abutting, or adjacent to lands that
are affected by the proposed development or revision of a land use plan; and

“(2) not more than 60 days after the deadline for comment, the Secretary shall publish a statement in the Federal register and on the website of the Department of the Interior that—

“(A) summarizes the comments received;

“(B) describes the disposition of the concerns expressed in such comments; and

“(C) describes the final plan.”; and

(2) in section 204(c)(2)—

(A) in paragraph (11) by striking “and”;

(B) in paragraph (12) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(13) a statement of the support or the disapproval of each unit of local government that has boundaries within, abutting, or adjacent to lands affected by such withdrawal.”.