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Office of the Governor

March 26, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Scott Turner
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Burgum and Secretary Turner:

I write today to applaud your recent creation of the Joint Task Force on Federal Land for Housing and to encourage you to consider including representation from Nevada on the Task Force. I'm encouraged by your recognition of the complex and compounded challenges states with significant federal land have as they work to address the housing crisis. I'm proud to support to the efforts of this Administration to create meaningful progress through the joint task force on this critical issue, so more Nevadans can soon realize the American dream of owning a home.

Since taking office, I have prioritized tackling Nevada's housing crisis. My administration has advocated for a streamlined land disposal process, so we can increase the availability of affordable and attainable housing in Nevada. Rising costs – driven by inflation, high interest rates, an increased cost of living, and a shrinking housing supply – have put a heavy strain on the budgets of families throughout the state.

As you know, more than 85% of Nevada's land is managed by the federal government. This significantly limits our ability to expand housing availability, since growth is stifled by the lack of land available for development. To put this into perspective, projections show that Washoe County could run out of developable land by 2027, and Clark County may face the same issue by 2032. We simply cannot afford to let this happen.

Knowing that there is no time to waste, we're already working at the state level to increase Nevada's housing inventory, and I have introduced the Nevada Housing Access and Attainability Act, AB540 this legislative session. This bill aims to increase housing development through direct partnerships with local government entities and developers, which will streamline processes, remove housing barriers, and increase our skilled workforce in our rural areas. My bill also specifically calls for continued efforts to work with the federal government to expedite the release of federal land in the state. I look forward to working with you to align our priorities and continue these efforts in conjunction with Joint Task Force on Federal Land for Housing.

As your agencies stand up the Task Force, I hope you will consider including stakeholders from Nevada. Our lands experts, housing partners, and local governments stand ready to assist and support you. On behalf of the State of Nevada, thank you for heeding our call for action, and we look forward to working with you to ensure every Nevadan —and every American—has a place they can proudly call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Lombardo', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Joe Lombardo
Governor