

Ant Blasi
Hancock

Dear Senator Bennett et al,
LD 1075 Ought to Pass. As a County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, 2 thoughts come to mind regarding the bill's text.

1. If the ACF is divided back to 2 or 3 separate departments, as was being discussed at the beginning of the current administration, will the BPL be left in a position that guarantees the rules follow the Bureau's placement?. This notion may seem outdated, but I think worth adding a sentence to ensure the rules are not lost in any transfer the Bureau may undergo. I personally will continue advocating for returning to having at least a separate Agriculture Department.

2. Although the bill gives unprecedented charge to administration to strengthen public land leasing criteria, I would like to see (more) specific requirements about what constitutes an objective evaluation process. A process that would include science-based identification of whether a development request would substantially reduce or alter the value of public lands before issuing leases. Can the committee bring in representatives of conservation agencies to work on suggestions that might be added? This would be a brainstorming effort that could have a 30-or-60-minute timeline. It would serve the public well.

Also, there could be a word reversal in either the end of the new section's title, or in the end of the first sentence under it.

I do not think the phrasing between the two is congruent, and there is no "use" in the sentence. Can you insert "use" after "reduced?"