

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2024

The Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning
Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Robin Carnahan
Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Director Stone-Manning and Administrator Carnahan:

We are writing to express our concerns about the pending privatization of the Federal Helium Reserve. As the General Services Administration (GSA) solicits bids on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) through January 25, 2024, we request that you consider delaying the sale to protect the American economy from any disruptions.

As you are aware, the Federal Helium Reserve has been a great source of stability for helium supply in the United States. It is a critical resource for the U.S. economy in regards to semiconductor manufacturing, the operation of MRI machines, the space industry, and other economic sectors. For those reasons, we must avoid any disruptions in the reserve's operations and ensure a smooth disposal process.

It is our understanding that numerous issues remain unresolved that could impact the Federal Helium Reserve's continued operations. These include inspections of the reserve's lengthy pipeline, unresolved rights-of-ways, and an incomplete accounting of the amount of helium in the reserve. We are also concerned that GSA did not make "technical competence in operating a helium facility" a significant factor in the bidding process.

Given these concerns, we request BLM and GSA to consider postponing the disposal process until these issues are resolved. It is vital to our national security and domestic economy that we have uninterrupted access to this critical resource.

Thank you for considering our views, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Guy Reschenthaler, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Christopher R. Deluzio, written in a cursive style.

Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress