

A Year After Accountable.US Files IRS Complaint, American Stewards of Liberty Is Still Lobbying In Violation Of Nonprofit Rules

SUMMARY: In May 2021, Accountable.US filed an IRS complaint alleging that the Texas-based 501(c)3 nonprofit American Stewards of Liberty was operating primarily to lobby for legislation. The bulk of the group's public activity was focused on passing anti-conservation resolutions at the county level, and the bulk of its money was spent on the salaries of its husband-and-wife executive duo, who were engaging in the legislative advocacy.

Since then, the group has ramped up its lobbying. It boasts that it has now encouraged over 100 counties and other legislative bodies to pass its cookie-cutter legislation opposing the 30x30 conservation plan.

American Stewards has also expanded its lobbying program to include federal legislation. The group is lobbying for several pieces of legislation introduced in Congress, and works closely with US Rep. Lauren Boebert and US Senator Kevin Cramer, the bills' original sponsors.

Most recently, American Stewards hosted Boebert and Cramer at a "stop 30 x 30 summit" event in Lincoln Nebraska on April 22, 2022. At the event, American Stewards taught attendees to lobby county commissions and congress on anti-conservation legislation.

American Stewards Of Liberty Has Expanded Its Lobbying Campaign From Focusing On County Resolutions To A Slate Of Federal Bills

American Stewards of Liberty Has Continued Lobbying Counties To Pass Its Cookie-Cutter Anti-30x30 Legislation

American Stewards Says The Number Of Counties Signing Its Legislation Opposing 30x30 Has More Than Tripled Since A.US Filed Its Initial Complaint

In May 2021, American Stewards of Liberty Said Roughly 30 Counties Had Signed Or Were Considering Its Legislation. "ASL's website tracks more than 30 counties in the United States that have passed or are considering a resolution similar to its model resolution."

[Accountable.US Complaint, [05/15/21](#)]

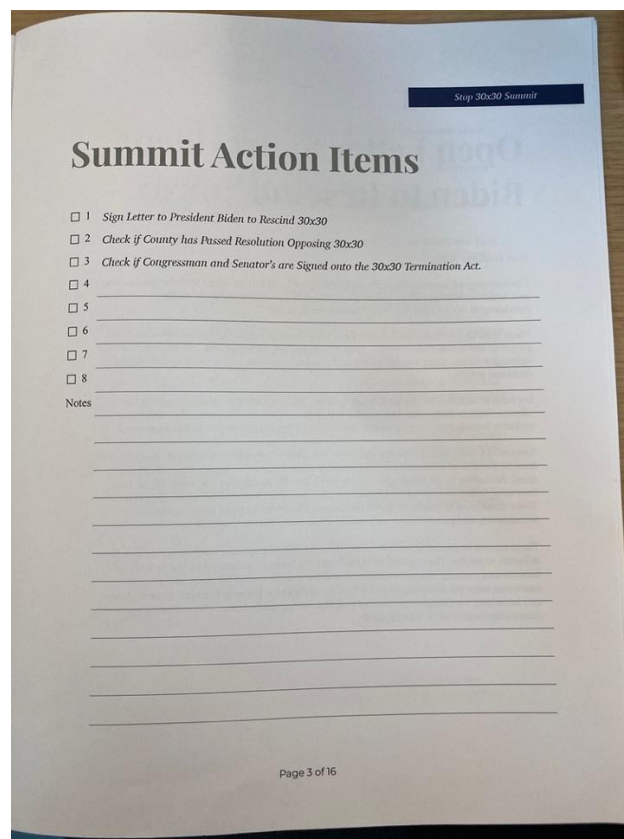
- **Now, American Stewards of Liberty Lists Over 100 Counties That Have Passed Its Legislation.** [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [05/03/22](#)]

American Stewards, At Its Summit Meeting In April 2022, Taught Attendees How To Contact Their Elected Representatives To Support Their Cookie Cutter Resolutions

American Stewards of Liberty Held A “Stop 30 x 30” Event To Oppose Conservation Policy With The Group American Stewards of Liberty In Lincoln This Month. “The program is set to open with a keynote presentation from the Summit host, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts. Governor Ricketts led the letter signed by 15 Governors opposing 30×30 last year, and has continued to actively oppose the agenda, protecting Nebraskans from the federal overreach.” [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [04/12/22](#)]

At The Event, American Stewards Distributed A “Work Book” With Three “Action Items.” One “action item” is verifying that county commissioners have passed the American Stewards cookie cutter legislation. [American Stewards Work Book, 04/22/22]

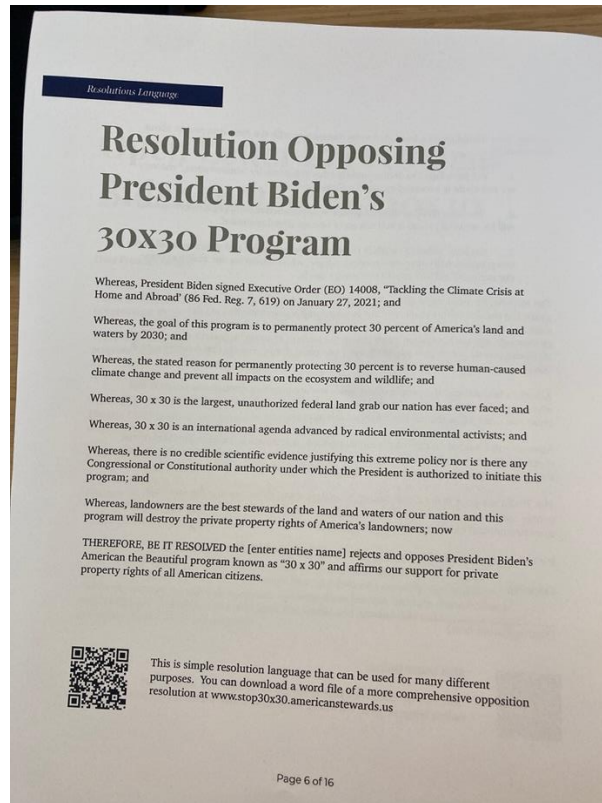
- **A Second Action Item Is Verifying That Members of Congress and Senators Have Signed The Anti-30x30 Termination Act.** [American Stewards Work Book, 04/22/22]



[American Stewards Work Book, 04/22/22]

The Workbook Also Includes A Printed Copy Of American Stewards of Liberty’s Cookie Cutter Legislation. [American Stewards Work Book, 04/22/22]

- The Workbook Includes A QR Code That Links To The American Stewards Website That Says “Your Local Governments Can Use (them) To Oppose The 30 x 30 Lan Grab.” [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [05/03/22](#)]



[American Stewards Work Book, 04/22/22]

Since Accountable.US Filed Its Initial Complaint In May 2021, American Stewards Has Broadened Its Federal Lobbying Program

American Stewards of Liberty Is A Chief Booster Of Rep. Lauren Boebert's "30x30 Termination Act," Calling The Bill One Of Its "Successes."

American Stewards Puts Substantial Time And Resources Into Advocating For Federal Legislation Opposing 30 x 30.

ASL Asked People To Thank The Members Who Supported Rep. Boebert's Anti-30x30 Bill, And Told People To Petition Their Own Members To Support The Legislation. A post on ASL's site reads, "Last Friday, Representative Boebert and 22 of her Colleagues filed the '30 x 30 Termination Act.' [...] Please thank these members for standing with America's landowners. If your member is not signed on, call them and ask them to get behind the bill." [Americanstewards.us, [11/12/21](#)]

- **ASL Described Boebert's Bill As "A Policy That Should Be Advanced When Republicans Regain Control Of Congress."** "Representative Lauren Boebert (R-CO) is preparing to file the '30 x 30 Termination Act.' The legislation prohibits federal funds from being spent to carry out the 30 x 30 program, ensures no net-loss of non-federal land in counties and states that already have a significant federal presence, ensures no net-loss of multiple-use activities without Congressional approval, and prohibits unilateral mineral withdrawals without Congressional approval. (Bill Summary) Although getting Republican priorities passed in this Congress is a long shot, having this bill ready to move is important. Not only does it prohibit any funding for 30 x 30 programs, but it also prohibits federal land acquisitions in States that have more than 15% of their land owned by the federal government. This is a policy that should be advanced when Republicans regain control of Congress. Now is the time to set this stage." [American Stewards of Liberty, [05/04/21](#)]

American Stewards: Boebert Bill Is One Of Our "Successes."

ASL Touted Boebert's Legislation As One Of Its "Successes." The post reads: "Here are a few of the ways we have made an impact: Initiated the 30 x 30 Land Grab campaign within weeks after the Biden Administration quietly slipped the agenda into the 57 page "Climate Crisis" Executive Order, 14008. Over the course of five short months we educated local, State and Congressional leaders, resulting in nearly 100 local government resolutions passed to oppose the agenda, 15 Governor's sending an opposition letter to the White House led by Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, and Congressional leaders filing companion bills to nullify the agenda led by Colorado's Representative Boebert." [Americanstewards.us, [07/14/21](#)]

American Stewards Encourages The Public To Ask Their Federal Representatives To Support The Bill.

ASL Urged Readers To "Contact Your Congressman And Senators If They Have Not Formally Signed Onto H.R. 3014 Or S. 1673, The 30 X 30 Termination Act." "We highly recommend that you contact your congressman and senators if they have not formally signed onto H.R. 3014 or S. 1673, The 30 x 30 Termination Act. Even if your Congressional leader has previously signed letters opposing 30 x 30, it is important that they formalize their opposition by co-sponsoring this bill. Make sure they are aware that H.R. 3014 and S. 1673 are the only bills filed that effectively stop the program from being authorized or implemented." [Americanstewards.us, [08/24/21](#)]

American Stewards Opposes A Competing Anti-30x30 Bill In Congress

American Stewards Of Liberty Claimed Rep. Cheney's Anti-30x30 Bill "Falls Short." In a post titled, "Cheney Files 30 x 30 Bill That Falls Short," ASL wrote, "Last week, Representative Liz Cheney (R-WY) filed a 30 x 30 bill promoted to protect property rights and guard against federal overreach. However, the language fails to deliver the promised relief, raising the question as to why the Representative filed her own bill instead of joining her colleagues by co-sponsoring 'The 30 x 30 Termination Act,' H.R. 3014, filed in the House last May." [Americanstewards.us, [08/24/21](#)]

- **ASL Critiqued Cheney Bill For Not Including Similar Language To The Boebert Bill Preventing Federal Funds From Being Expended On Programs Related To 30x30.** ASL commented, “The two bills have one element in common – they both prevent the implementation of any programs by executive orders, or reports such as ‘America the Beautiful,’ that seek to implement 30 x 30. However, the Boebert bill takes this a step further by preventing any federal funds from being expended on programs related to 30 x 30. It reads: ‘No Federal funds may be used to implement, administer, enforce, or carry out any report or program substantially similar to the section referred to in subsection (a).’ (Boebert Section 2(b)) The Cheney bill does not include similar language, and therefore fails to prevent the Administration from implementing the initiative through existing authorized programs. The Boebert language cuts off federal funding for ‘any’ effort ‘substantially similar’ to the 30 x 30 initiative, effectively plugging this loophole.” [Americanstewards.us, 08/24/21]

American Stewards Hosted Lauren Boebert At An Event Where Margaret Byfield Encouraged Listeners To Call Their Congresspeople To Support Boebert’s Bill

American Stewards Hosted Lauren Boebert At Their Ant-30x30 Event In Lincoln, Nebraska.

ASL Also Advertised Boebert’s Presence At Its Event In Nebraska, And Claimed She Was “Leading The Strong Stand” Against 30x30. ASL wrote in a post that, “The program will end with a call to fight from U.S. Representative Lauren Boebert, who has been leading the strong stand in the U.S. House of Representatives through her bill, H.R. 3014, the ‘30x30 Termination Act,’ co-sponsored by 27 Representatives.” [Americanstewards.us, 03/03/22]

American Stewards Director At Boebert Event: Ask Your Senators To Support Boebert’s Bill.

American Stewards Executive Director Margaret Byfield Ended the day Encouraging Attendees to “Make Sure Your US Representative and Your Senator are Signed on to the 30x30 Termination Act.” “We’re also going to ask that you make sure your US representative and senators are signed onto the 30x30 Termination Act. Lauren Boebert has sponsored it in the house, it has 27 cosponsors. Senator Cramer, who we heard from this morning, has sponsored it in the Senate and there are only two senators on this, that’s a problem.” [American Stewards Event Audio, Byfield Closing Remarks, 04/22/22] [05:29]

- **She Went on to Stress the Importance of the 30x30 Termination Act and its Passage.** “Why is this bill important... not only does it stop 30x30... it limits the federal land acquisitions- where no more can take place in states that already have 15% or more... so check to see if your senator and representative are on those bills.” [American Stewards Event Audio, Byfield Closing Remarks, 04/22/22] [05:54]
- **Byfield Believes the 30x30 Termination Act should be “ready to roll” In the Case**

Republicans Take Control of Congress in November. “The other reason that it’s important is because if what happens- they are expecting we can take back the house and the senate, this is one of those bills that should be ready to go, ready to roll and start moving thru Congress.” [American Stewards Event Audio, Byfield Closing Remarks, 04/22/22] [07:00]

American Stewards Of Liberty Has Publicly Supported North Dakota Senator Kevin Cramer’s Legislation To Weaken Conservation Easements

American Stewards Described Cramer And Marshall’s Bill As Providing “Much Needed Protections To Prevent Future Federal Land Grabs.” “U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer from North Dakota will discuss the bill he filed in the Senate, S. 1673, the ‘30 x 30 Termination Act,’ with Senator Doc Marshall from Kansas. The legislation does more than just stop the 30 x 30 program. It provides much needed protections to prevent future federal land grabs. These include ensuring no net-loss of non-federal lands in Counties and States that have 15 percent or more of their lands owned by the federal government. It also requires State and Congressional approval for federal land acquisitions. If the make-up of the Senate gives control to Republicans next election, this bill is poised to be advanced for passage.” [Americanstewards.us, [03/03/22](#)]

American Stewards Touted Cramer And Marshall’s Senate Bill, Bemoaning Its Lack Of Cosponsors. “H.R. 3014 is sponsored by Colorado’s Lauren Boebert. Twenty-six of her colleagues have co-sponsored the legislation, and a companion bill is filed in the Senate (S. 1673) by Senator’s Marshall (R-KS) and Cramer (R-ND).” [Americanstewards.us, [08/24/21](#)]

American Stewards On Cramer/Marshall Bill: “The Senate Companion Bill Currently Only Has The Two Original Sponsors... Your Senators Need To Join Them.” ASL wrote, “The Senate companion bill (S. 1673) currently only has the two original sponsors: Marshall (R-KS) and Cramer (R-ND). Your Senators need to join them.” [Americanstewards.us, [08/24/21](#)]

American Stewards Hosted Cramer At An Event In Lincoln, Nebraska To Discuss His Senate Bill

American Stewards Hosted Kevin Cramer To Discuss His Active Legislation, Which American Stewards Supports. “The ‘Stop 30 x 30 Summit’ agenda is packed with national leaders and frontline fighters who are gathering together to stop the international 30×30 agenda on American soil. [...] U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer from North Dakota will discuss the bill he filed in the Senate, S. 1673, the “30 x 30 Termination Act,” with Senator Doc Marshall from Kansas. The legislation does more than just stop the 30 x 30 program. It provides much needed protections to prevent future federal land grabs. These include ensuring no net-loss of non-federal lands in Counties and States that have 15 percent or more of their lands owned by the federal government. It also requires State and Congressional approval for federal land acquisitions. If the make-up of the Senate gives control to Republicans next election, this bill is poised to be advanced for passage.”

