how CRA defines a rule. CRA adopts the definition of a rule in section 551 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), with three exceptions. The APA defines a rule, in relevant part, as "the whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describe agency organization, procedure, or practice requirements of an agency." Thus a rule has three key components: it must (1) be an agency statement, (2) have future effect, and (3) be designed to either implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describe the agency’s organization, procedure, or practice requirements.

First, since the Eastern Regional Plan was issued by BLM, a federal agency, the first part of the definition is met. Second, the Eastern Interior Plan clearly states that it "provides overall direction for management of all resources on BLM-managed lands within the four planning areas it includes. In three of these areas, it replaces plans implemented 30 or more years ago; and in the fourth area it establishes an initial Management Plan for an area that previously had no approved plan. Each of four RMPs makes avenues and designates uses by non-agency parties that practice. Because the Eastern Interior Plan is a rule of agency organization, procedure or practice requirements of an agency.

Sincerely yours,

SUSAN A. POLING,
General Counsel.

USS "JACKSONVILLE"" Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Jacksonville prior to her decommissioning. On August 10, the USS Jacksonville returned to homeport at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing her final deployment to the Western Pacific.

The completion of this mission marked the USS Jacksonville's 15th deployment since the ship's commissioning in May 1981. Over her lifespan, the USS Jacksonville has completed two around-the-world cruises, visited ports in nearly every continent, and completed countless critical missions. While assigned to the Enterprise battle group on September 11, 2001, the Jacksonville provided critical intelligence support as the Nation prepared to respond to the terrorist attacks.

In a tribute to its namesake, the Jacksonville's nickname is "The Bold One," based on the city of Jacksonville, Florida's slogan of "The Bold New City of the South." I am sure the entire city of Jacksonville, with its rich naval tradition, is honored today by this submarine's legacy, and the outstanding service provided by her crew and their dedication to our great Nation.

Current and former crew will be hosting a reunion this November in Hawaii to say one final good-bye to the USS Jacksonville. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the boat, her current crew, and all of our Nation's courageous sailors who have served on board in years past.

PUBLIC HEALTH THANK YOU DAY Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I wish to express my gratitude for a community of individuals who are unfailing in their commitment to protecting the public health in my home State of New Jersey, across the United States, and abroad. From preventing chronic disease to responding to pandemics, epidemics, and natural disasters, to educating, protecting, and preparing the public, the work of the public health workforce is clearly evident in ways that promote access, participation, and opportunity, the extraordinary and diverse contributions of public health professionals have profound impacts on American lives.

The breadth of functions for which public health departments are responsible and the depth of expertise the public health workforce possesses are truly remarkable. Among their many responsibilities, public health professionals have played a critical role in responding to a variety of public health issues, including but not limited to infectious diseases, chronic disease, injuries, and environmental health. In the United States, public health professionals have contributed to the development of vaccines, the implementation of public health policies, and the monitoring of health outcomes. Their work has led to significant public health gains, including reductions in mortality rates from preventable diseases, improvements in the quality of life, and a better understanding of the determinants of health.

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