



May 15, 2017

Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Re: Executive Order on Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned 325 bipartisan state legislators from 44 states across the United States, urge you not to rescind, reduce the size of, or otherwise amend any designations of National Monuments. While we are confident that any review will expose the robust public process, strong scientific justification for boundaries, and overwhelming support of the American public for each of the existing monuments, we urge you to conclude upon receiving the review from the Secretary of Interior pursuant to your Executive Order issued April 26, 2017, that each of these existing designations is warranted.

The 1906 Antiquities Act has been the subject of 157 designations of national monuments by nearly every previous president beginning with President Theodore Roosevelt, and include such areas and places as the Grand Canyon, Zion, Chaco Canyon, Olympic National Park, Muir Woods, and the Statue of Liberty. Presidential action under the Antiquities Act in many instances led to subsequent congressional action to provide National Park status to these very special areas of natural and archaeological values, scientific and educational interest, and importance in our nation's history and culture.

Rather than pursuing a pathway that could lead to weakening protections for these important publicly owned areas and sites, we urge you instead to work with the Congress and state legislators to increase funding for the management of all federal lands and waters, including areas designated as National Monuments. These represent a small fraction of the 640 million acres of federal lands. Greater investments in management can serve both to conserve the natural resources of these areas while providing even greater economic benefits to neighboring communities as well as the entire nation.

Among these economic benefits are the value in outdoor recreation and tourism that the nation's great public land base provides. The third assessment of the nation's Outdoor Recreation Economy, just released by the Outdoor Industry Association, concludes that the outdoor recreation economy generates \$887 billion in consumer spending, is responsible for 7.6 million American jobs, and provides \$125 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues. For a sense of the magnitude of these benefits, the jobs dependent on outdoor recreation pursuits exceed those in computer technology, in construction, and in the finance and insurance industry. The study also estimates that public lands, including national monuments, national parks, and national wildlife refuges, account for \$45 billion in economic output and about 396,000 jobs nationwide.

Rescinding or otherwise weakening national monument designations will harm this growing economy in outdoor recreation, and will do little to increase economic benefits to nearby communities through pursuing alternative management of the lands. As noted above, there is certainly room within the extensive federal land base and the waters of our exclusive economic zone—the largest in the world—to pursue the multiple-use management framework of the 1976 Federal Land Management and Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and other public land management statutes, in a manner that provides for protection of the special characteristics of designated national monuments. And with a concerted investment in management resources for land and ocean managing agencies, outdoor recreation uses on the nation's public lands and waters can be expected to play an even larger role in the nation's economy. The American public is well aware of these benefits, which is why a 2017 Colorado College poll found that 80% of Western state voters, including 81% of Independents, support keeping existing National Monument designations.

For these reasons we urge you to honor your promise to be a great steward of America's public lands and waters by upholding the protections for all of the national monuments designated by previous presidents under the Antiquities Act.

Sincerely,



Senator Kevin Ranker
Washington

Representative Andrew Josephson
Alaska

Representative Athena Salman
Arizona

Representative Warwick Sabin
Arkansas

Representative Scott Kawasaki
Alaska

Senator Juan Mendez
Arizona

Senator Fran Pavley (ret)
California

Representative Rosanna Gabaldon
Arizona

Senator Jamescita Peshlakai
Arizona

Senator Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Senate Environmental
Quality Committee
California

Representative Kirsten Engel
Arizona

Representative Pamela Powers
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Representative Mike Weissman
Colorado

Senator Irene Aguilar
Colorado

Senator Kerry Donovan
Colorado

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Deputy Minority Leader
Colorado

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Deputy Speaker
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Assistant Majority Leader
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Assistant Deputy Speaker
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Connecticut

Representative Cristin McCarthy
Vahey
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Connecticut

Representative James Albis
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Delaware

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Vice Chair, Campaign &
Fundraising
Georgia

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Representative Debra Bazemore
Georgia

Senator Nan Orrock
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Representative Mary Margaret
Oliver
Georgia

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Assistant Majority Leader, Chair,
Energy and Environmental
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Representative Matthew LoPresti
Hawaii

Representative Nicole Lowen
Vice Chair, Committee on Energy
and Environment
Hawaii

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Committee on Water and
Land
Hawaii

Representative Cynthia Thielen
Assistant Minority Floor Leader
Hawaii

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Hawaii

Senator Laura Thielen
Hawaii

Representative Kaniela Ing
Chair, Committee on Ocean,
Marine Resources, and Hawaiian
Affairs
Hawaii

Representative Paulette Jordan
Chair; Energy, Environment,
Transportation Committee,
NCNASL
Idaho

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Idaho

Representative John Gannon
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Speaker of the House
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Chair, House Environment
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Washington

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Wyoming

Senator Janet Bewley
Wisconsin

Representative Dave Considine
Wisconsin

Representative Andy Schwartz
Wyoming

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Honorable Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senate Minority Leader
Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives