## March 24, 2014

## Dear Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our millions of members across the country, we strongly support the Antiquities Act and urge you to oppose H.R 1459, which would undermine Presidential authority under the Antiquities Act to act swiftly to protect iconic historical, cultural, and natural sites that are the fabric of who we are as Americans.

H.R. 1459 would place numeric limitations on how many places could be designated in a given presidential term. Most recently, the Antiquities Act has been used to protect vast ocean resources, a contemporary American Latino leader – the revered César Chávez – and important wildlife habitat in the West. Since President Teddy Roosevelt pushed for the passage of the Antiquities Act, it has been used on a bipartisan basis by 16 Presidents (8 Republicans and 8 Democrats) to protect America's most iconic natural, cultural, and historic places: the Grand Canyon, Statue of Liberty, Fort Pulaski, Acadia, Zion and Olympic National Parks. Half of our National Parks were originally protected using the Antiquities Act.

The Antiquities Act properly balances legislative and executive powers. While granting to the President the authority to take swift action to protect significant, historic, and scenic objects on federal lands, it leaves undisturbed Congress' authority to declare monuments, to determine the level of resources for the management and maintenance of presidentially proclaimed national monuments, and to redesignate any monument as a national park or other federal reserve.

National Monuments and public lands are an essential part of state and local economies. A 2013 poll by Colorado College found that 74% of Westerners see protected public lands as a job creator in their state. The ten broadly supported national monument designations over the past two years have already had a tangible impact on the surrounding communities. Most recently, following the March 2013 designation of the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument, data from the New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce found that the designation increased the town of Taos' lodgers tax revenue by 21% and revenue in Taos county from accommodations and food services increased by \$3.7 million in the second half of 2013, over the same period of 2012.

Efforts to prevent and undermine the protection of our lands and waters are out of step with public opinion, where there is overwhelming support for managing our country's public lands and waters in a way that will sustain local economies, enhance quality of life for our children and protect our rich conservation legacy.

For these reasons we urge you to oppose H.R. 1459.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League
American Cultural Resources Association

**American Forests** 

American Hiking Society

American Rock Art Research Association

American Society of Landscape Architects

Appalachian Mountain Club

Arizona Wilderness Coalition

ASPIRA Association, Inc.

Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education

**Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership** 

California League of Conservation Voters

California Wilderness Coalition

Californians for Western Wilderness

Center for Biological Diversity

**Cesar Chavez Foundation** 

Chesapeake Conservancy

Citizens for Dixie's Future

Coalition of National Park Service Retirees

Community Hiking Club

Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norteamérica (COFEM)

Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

**Conservation Colorado** 

The Conservation Fund

**Conservation Lands Foundation** 

**Conservation Law Foundation** 

**Conservation Northwest** 

Conservation Voters for Idaho

Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship

Defenders of Wildlife

**Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy** 

Earthjustice

**Endangered Species Coalition** 

**Environment America** 

Farmworker Justice

Friends of Acadia

Friends of Browns Canyon

Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Friends of Pompeys Pillar

Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument

Friends of the San Pedro River

Friends of the Smokies

Friends of Virgin Islands National Park

**Grand Canyon Wildlands Council** 

**Great Old Broads for Wilderness** 

High Mountain Institute

**Hispanic Access Foundation** 

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)

Hispanic Federation (HF)

**Hudson River Sloop Clearwater** 

Idaho Conservation League

Idaho Outdoor Business Council

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)

League of Conservation Voters

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Los Padres Forest Watch

Maine Audubon

**Maine Conservation Voters** 

Marine Conservation Institute

The Mazamas

Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF)

The Mountaineers

National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE)

**National Audubon Society** 

National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC)

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

**National Parks Conservation Association** 

**National Tour Association** 

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Natural Resources Council of Maine

Natural Resources Defense Council

Nevada Conservation League

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

Northern Alaska Environmental Center

Ocean Conservancy

**Old Spanish Trail Association** 

Oregon League of Conservation Voters

**Oregon Natural Desert Association** 

Partnership for the National Trails System

**RESTORE: The North Woods** 

Rivers and Birds

Sacred Sites International Foundation

San Juan Citizens Alliance

Santa Clara River Watershed Conservancy

Scenic America

SER: Jobs for Progress National, Inc. (SER National)

Sierra Club

Society for American Archaeology

Society for Historical Archaeology

Soda Mountain Wilderness Council

**Southeast Tourism Society** 

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Trust for Public Land

Tuleyome

U.S. Cultural & Heritage Tourism Marketing Council

U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute

U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce

**U.S.--Mexico Foundation** 

Western National Parks Association

Western Slope Conservation Center

The Wilderness Society

Wildlands Network

Winter Wildlands Alliance