

November 6, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

Our country's public lands and waters preserve cultural treasures, create lasting jobs, sustain important ecological benefits, provide recreation opportunities, and are a source of pride for all Americans. The American people, including the millions of outdoor recreation enthusiasts we represent, overwhelmingly support our public lands and oppose broad efforts to roll back protections, including for our country's National Monuments.

Over the course of the past summer, more than 2.7 million Americans wrote in to the Department of the Interior expressing their support for the Antiquities Act and our National Monuments. Since its enactment more than one-hundred years ago, the Antiquities Act has been one of our nation's most critical tools for preserving our most important public lands and waters. Sixteen Presidents, both Democrat and Republican, have designated a total of 157 National Monuments across the country. We ask, will you continue in this tradition?

Across the West and around the country, Americans have benefitted from and enjoyed the public lands protected through National Monument designations under the Antiquities Act. Although targeted at protecting areas of historic or scientific interest, protecting outdoor recreation opportunities has undoubtedly been one of the greatest secondary benefits of the Antiquities Act. Additionally, protected public lands play an essential role in mitigating the effects of climate change, and provide critical ecosystem services. Outdoor recreation is the means by which Americans experience these protected areas, and in the U.S., the outdoor recreation economy generates \$887 billion in consumer spending annually, supports 7.6 million jobs, and generates \$65.3 billion in federal tax revenue and \$59.2 billion in local and state tax revenue.

In a January 2017 Colorado College State of the Rockies Poll, 80 percent of American voters in the West backed keeping current National Monument designations in place. Americans want more protected public lands and waters, not less.

Recreation users of all stripes have worked hard on locally-driven efforts to build support for National Monument designations in their backyards. These places are where we go to recreate, to form lasting experiences with friends and family, to bond with our past, and to give back. But these landscapes offer more than just recreation; they are a symbol of our country's immense diversity and the very fabric that weaves us all together. These monuments are a part of us, as much as we are a part of them.

Millions of people, across the country and of all backgrounds have been advocating to protect these places for years. The voice of the recreation community has been loud and clear: protect these special places, protect the experiences Americans have now in these places forever into the future.

Our organizations strongly oppose any efforts to undo existing protections established under the Antiquities Act. We are calling upon you to defend our collective American heritage and the century-old tradition of protecting and defending the landscapes that comprise our public lands network. By doing so, you will help to ensure the future of the 7.6 million hard-working Americans who rely on public land to support their jobs, as well as to ensure that we continue to maintain balance between resource development, where appropriate, and protection of recreation opportunities and our conservation heritage.

Best regards,

Adam Cramer
Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance

Christian Beckwith
Director
SHIFT

Wade Blackwood
Executive Director
American Canoe Association

Lindsay Bourgoine
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Protect Our Winters

Deanne Buck
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Heather Clish
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Yvonne Kraus
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American Packrafting Association

Mark Menlove
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Winter Wildlands Alliance

Martin Palmaz
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Association, Inc.

Phil Powers
Executive Director
American Alpine Club

Brady Robinson
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Access Fund

Scott Robson
Executive Director
Colorado Mountain Club

Will Rogers
President/CEO
The Trust for Public Land

Mark Singleton
Executive Director
American Whitewater

Claire Smallwood
Executive Director
She Jumps

Pete Stauffer
Environmental Director
Surfrider Foundation

John Sterling
Executive Director
The Conservation Alliance

Tom Vogl
Chief Executive Officer
The Mountaineers

Dave Wiens
Executive Director
International Mountain Bicycling Association