

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

Thank you for your willingness to travel to the great State of Utah to hear from stakeholders regarding the consideration of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. We are grateful for your initial engagement with us as you conduct your review. We hope and expect that your recommendations to the President will take into account the feedback you received during your meetings with stakeholders, and particularly those who rely on these lands for their livelihoods.

We write to again ask for the administration's support and cooperation in seeking a permanent legislative solution to these monuments as opposed to unilateral expansion through the Antiquities Act. Such a solution would incorporate the input of a broad group of stakeholders, including state and local elected officials, tribal governments, and other users of these lands.

However, if the administration instead decides to pursue a unilateral restoration of the monuments, it will divide us all even further, and cease any momentum we have built to pursue a legislative solution -- similar to how supporters of the original monuments felt after President Trump's reductions in 2017.

Neither the executive actions creating, nor altering, the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments provided adequate resources to effectively protect sensitive cultural sites or certainty in management of the lands. Further executive action under the Antiquities Act will result in the same shortcomings. A solution enacted by Congress, with the input of local stakeholders and backed by the administration, could yield better results for all interested parties and for future preservation and management of these cherished lands.

Thank you again for visiting our beautiful state. We look forward to continuing to engage with you and President Biden as we seek a resolution to this issue that is so vital for the future of our state.

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Sincerely,



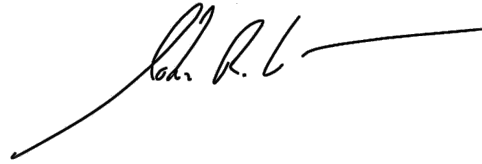
Michael S. Lee
United States Senator



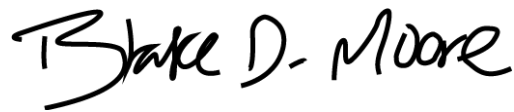
Mitt Romney
United States Senator



Chris Stewart
United States Representative



John Curtis
United States Representative



Blake Moore
United States Representative



Burgess Owens
United States Representative