Date

Senator/Representative Name

Address

Dear Senator/Representative Name:

I am writing regarding Mr. Trump’s Executive Order directing the Department of the Interior to review over 20 years of national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act. It is apparent that Mr. Trump wants to eliminate or shrink the size of these national monuments in order to open them up to oil exploration, fracking, and mining. This is an abuse of power and is not in the best interests of Americans.

The Antiquities Act was signed by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1906 to safeguard and preserve federal lands and cultural and historical sites for all people to enjoy. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect stunning landscapes, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Zion, and Olympic national parks. More recently, the Act has also been used to protect places like Bears Ears -- spanning 1.35 million acres in southeastern Utah and home to centuries worth of cultural artifacts including cliff dwellings, hogans, pictographs, and sites sacred to Native Americans.

Our public lands help define who we are as a nation. Instead of asking which parts of our history and heritage we could eliminate, the Trump administration should be asking how we can make our outdoors reflect the full story of our country.

As a resident of the Southwest, I have enjoyed visiting many of these national monuments and parks. These monuments and parks provide economic benefits to the states in which they are located. Good examples are the Grand Canyon and Zion National Park, both of which are visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists annually. These tourists bring their dollars to the states in which these parks and monuments are located. Harming them by allowing mining and oil drilling will make them less attractive to tourists, not to mention the adverse environmental damage they will cause, including pollution of our rivers and streams. Here in the Southwest, these rivers and streams are our lifeblood and we cannot afford to have them polluted.

Please leave these national monuments and parks alone and protect them for future generations to come.

Sincerely,

Your name and address

NOTE: This letter could also be sent to Secretary Ryan Zinke

Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240