

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 re-designate 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
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
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
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

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Outdoor Business Council
League of Conservation Voters
Los Padres Forest Watch
Maine Audubon
Maine Conservation Voters
Marine Conservation Institute
The Mazamas
The Mountaineers
National Audubon Society
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Parks Conservation Association
National Tour Association
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nevada Conservation League
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
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
Western National Parks Association
Western Slope Conservation Center
The Wilderness Society

Wildlands Network
Winter Wildlands Alliance