

From: Fawn Douglas
To: nancy_guiden@ios.doi.gov; timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov; scheduling@ios.doi.gov
Subject: June 8th Meeting
Date: Friday, May 26, 2017 4:58:57 PM

May 26, 2017

Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

My name is Fawn Douglas. I am a member of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, and also have strong ties to the Moapa Paiute, Cheyenne, Pawnee and Creek Nations. I am writing to you today as a concerned constituent of Nevada, as a Tribal member and, most importantly, as a Mother.

I have read President Trump's executive order asking the Department of the Interior to review certain National Monuments. I understand this means you will be reviewing Nevada's newest treasures, Gold Butte and Basin & Range. I am devastated to think that, after so many years fighting for this land, we may see it taken from us once again.

That is why I ask you to join us at an invitation-only meeting I will be hosting this June 8th in Las Vegas, where you can hear from other Tribal members and Indigenous groups about what these Monuments mean to us. In the meantime, I'd like the opportunity to share with you what this Monument means to me.

I was recently asked what kind of future I want for my child. Here is what I know: I want her to be proud of her heritage, to learn about our tribe's history, to understand the traditions of our people and to become a steward of the lands from which she is descended.

I want my daughter to be able to visit those lands with her children and tell them, as I tell her now, the story of how the Nuwuvi came to live in and cherish the land we call Gold Butte. I want her to look upon that view of fiery steppes and sandstone hearths, same as they were in the age of her ancestors, and share with her children the bond we have to the land.

I want her children's children to see the night skies of Gold Butte speckled with stars, so when our oral traditions are passed on, they understand "Why the North Star Stands Still" -- they will know why Shinob, the Creator, made his son into the boldest guiding light in our Paiute sky. They will see the petroglyphs there still of the ram, Shinob's son, tracing the stories our ancestors told eons ago.

Our Paiute culture is deeply rooted in Gold Butte. We once lived there, hunted there, foraged there. Our ceremonial songs describe the majestic area that is our piece of the Grand Canyon. Gold Butte is not only for our people; it is for all people. For all people to enjoy the area, free from development or destruction, for all the ages to come.

For many years, I have worked to see the Gold Butte area earn the protection it so richly deserves. When President Obama designated Gold Butte as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act, I felt like our Indigenous voice was finally being heard. It seemed like such a positive step for our Tribes and government agencies to work together for a common good.

President Trump's executive order has left me devastated, but I am also hopeful. I write you today with an open heart and an open mind. I believe that once you hear what Nevadans have to say about our Monuments, you will understand why they should be protected. I know that once you hear from our Tribes, you will feel the heart of the people and support this Monument.

The meeting on June 8th will be held at the Las Vegas Paiute Tribes' Multi-Purpose Room and will bring together many Tribal voices. We would welcome you to share your perspective, and to listen to ours. I hope you will join us.

When: June 8, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm PST

Where: Las Vegas Paiute Multi-Purpose Room

1316 Sackett St.

Las Vegas, NV 89106

Fawn Douglas
Las Vegas Paiute Artist
725-400-3154
lvartfawn@gmail.com
www.NuwuArt.com