

From: <Catherine_Callaway@ios.doi.gov>
To: Randal_Bowman@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DCN: EST-00003210 - Antiquities Act
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 5:08:09 PM
Attachments: [3210 in.pdf](#)

Tasked to OCL.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE

BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

June 9, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Secretary Zinke:

I am writing to you today in support of your review of monument designations made under the Antiquities Act and to ask you to consider the legislation's original intent when reviewing the national monuments in my state, namely the Gold Butte and Basin and Range National Monuments.

As the senior Senator from a state where approximately 85% of our lands are largely administered by the federal government, I have serious concerns with the use of the Antiquities Act to lock up lands in the West with little to no transparency or public input. This is why I have introduced legislation, the Nevada Land Sovereignty Act (S.22), which would prohibit the use of the Antiquities Act in Nevada without the express authorization of Congress. I commend your department for undertaking this review to gather public comments and listen to the people that these designations affect the most.

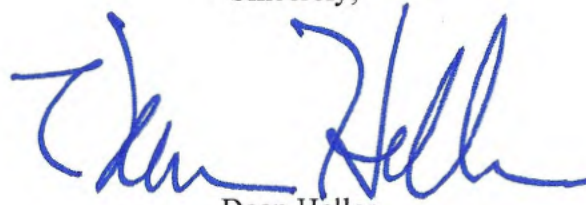
In Nevada, our Congressional Delegation has a strong tradition of working in a bipartisan matter to resolve issues pertaining to the management of our public lands and of advancing legislation that conserves our environmentally sensitive areas while facilitating sustainable economic development in our communities. The designation of two national monuments under the Antiquities Act does not fit into this consensus model, and I have been outspoken to both this and the previous Administration with my opposition to the designation of Basin and Range and Gold Butte National Monuments.

While there is no doubt the Gold Butte National Monument in Clark County and the Basin and Range National Monument in Lincoln and Nye Counties may hold historical and archaeological value, the designation of over 1,000,000 acres of lands with the stroke of a pen and with little to no public input flies in the face of the Nevada tradition of working through these issues in an open and transparent Congressional process. When reviewing these designations, I urge you to consider the original intent of the Antiquities Act which states that protection "in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and managements to be protected." Any efforts to go beyond this is just blatant federal overreach.

Further, when reviewing these monuments, I ask that you take into serious consideration the views of the local communities impacted by these designations. As you know, Nevada is a largely rural state, and many of my constituents rely on the land for their livelihood. Locking up large swaths of land under the Antiquities Act from grazing, vehicle access, and development with no input from local communities and tribal communities most affected is harmful to my state's economic viability.

In summary, I respectfully request that when you review the monuments in my state, you will take into consideration the original intent of the Antiquities Act while also considering the views of the local communities impacted by these designations. Again, I commend your department's review of these designations, and I look forward to working with you on this issue moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dean Heller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dean Heller
U.S. Senator

Cc: Mr. Micah Chambers
Acting Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior