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**From:** amy\_gilbert@protectnps.org  
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[Antiquities Act Sign-On Letter PDF.pdf](#)

Dear James,

Please find attached a letter to Secretary Zinke from the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks. This letter was signed by 260 former and current employees of the National Park Service in opposition to Executive Order 13792. These Park Service professionals came together to advocate for the importance of protecting parks and public lands, and to emphasize the role that the Antiquities Act has played in building that legacy.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We're happy to discuss this further.

Best,

Amy Gilbert

**Executive Director**

**Coalition to Protect America's National Parks**

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*Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

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

Dear Secretary Zinke:

As former employees of the National Park Service, we appreciate the support you have expressed for our National Park System in your first weeks at the helm of the Interior Department. Today we respectfully request that you help preserve and protect the National Park System, which as you know includes many of our country's national monuments established by Presidents under the Antiquities Act.

The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks has already announced its strong objection to Executive Order 13792 issued by President Trump on April 26, 2017, directing you to review Presidential designations and expansions of national monuments since January 1, 1996. The national monuments subject to review protect exceptional natural and cultural resources owned by the American people, and they have already undergone public review and received strong public support. These national monuments also help to tell the rich and diverse story of America, and are key components of the natural and cultural legacy that this generation protects for future generations.

The larger National Park Service monuments that you have listed for initial review, including Grand Canyon-Parashant, Craters of the Moon, and Katahdin Woods and Waters, help to protect nationally significant geology, wildlife and plants, human history, and other natural and cultural resources already determined by the National Park Service to merit inclusion in the National Park System. The Coalition is committed to assuring that these special places stay in the Park System intact, and firmly believes that the President lacks authority to remove them from the Park System. For these and more reasons, this national monument review is a poor use of time and money for everyone, especially when there are many important issues facing our national park units and other public lands.

In addition to the monuments managed by the National Park Service, the national monuments managed by other land management agencies must not be compromised or diminished. Given the short period provided for comment on Bears Ears National Monument, please know that the Coalition joins with many others who are extremely

concerned about the Trump Administration's apparent interest in removing protections for the remarkable landscape and features of this sacred treasure in southern Utah, with its awe-inspiring views of sandstone canyons, desert mesas, and meadow mountaintops. Believing that you value Native American history, the Coalition expects that you will appreciate deeply the extraordinary quantity and quality of Native American relics, cultural sites, and sacred burial grounds located there. These and other cultural resources, coupled with the monument's exceptional natural resources, eliminate any question as to whether Bears Ears National Monument meets the requirements of the Antiquities Act.

President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act into law and used it to protect places large and small for future generations. He well understood that waiting for Congressional action could lead to exploitation of extraordinary resources for private gain and irreversible damage to special places that should be protected for all Americans. The Antiquities Act today remains an important tool for protecting resources of value to the entire nation.

Please work with President Trump and all interested parties, including Native Americans and so many others wishing to preserve these special places, to ensure that the national monuments managed by the National Park Service and other agencies are protected for current and future generations by leaving protections in place and allocating adequate resources to land managers on the ground to protect this incredible national legacy.

The Coalition is committed to protecting and preserving these special places. Now is not the time to retreat. As the National Park Service begins its second century, let's instead work together to strengthen the long-term foundation of our national parks and public lands.

Sincerely,

The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks Executive Council:

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