

From: Micah Chambers
To: randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov; [Downey Magallanes](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Congresswoman Moore re: National Monuments Review
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2017 6:04:30 PM
Attachments: [attachedFile.html](#)
[DOI_NationalMonumentsReview.pdf](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Goldson, Chris" <Chris.Goldson@mail.house.gov>
Date: May 25, 2017 at 5:14:16 PM EDT
To: "'micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov'" <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "'amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov'" <amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Letter from Congresswoman Moore re: National Monuments Review

Please find attached a letter from to the Secretary regarding the ongoing monuments review.? Thanks.

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Chris Goldson

Legislative Assistant

Office of Congresswoman Gwen Moore

2252 Rayburn House Office Building

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GWEN MOORE
4TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

May 25, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Zinke:

I write to express my deep concern with the ongoing Interior Department review of a number of National Monuments. I strongly oppose any efforts to rescind or reduce protections for any National Monuments. Additionally, I am deeply troubled by reports tribal leaders have been frustrated by their inability to meet with you and other senior Administration officials to discuss the importance of the Bears Ears monument and the review that is underway.

Our national monuments, marine protected areas, and public lands contribute to the story of our nation and its diverse communities. I have and continue to support the use of the Antiquities Act to protect, respect, and elevate diverse and inclusive histories. Presidents of both parties have recognized that the protection of national monuments is critical to not only telling a more complete story of America, but ensuring that future generations can learn and enjoy these places as well. Our monuments belong to all Americans – rich and poor, urban and rural, young and old, from all backgrounds, genders, cultures, religious viewpoints, and walks of life.

A significant number of the monuments being reviewed were designated to help ensure protections of the people and places that have shaped our nation's history. The designation of the Bears Ears National Monument, Gold Butte National Monument, and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument were done with the support of communities, local officials, tribal leaders, and elected officials. They did not take place in a vacuum. It would be shortsighted to overlook the involved public engagement process for each designation which considered the views of thousands of Americans through public meetings, letters, petitions, and in-person meetings.

While Congress clearly and unambiguously gave the President the authority to designate monuments in the Antiquities Act, that law does not expressly authorize a president to abolish an established national monument. Any such act would be unprecedented and wrong. Only Congress has rescinded monuments or converted their designation to another one such as a national park. Therefore, I hope you understand, as you undertake this review, that the president cannot reduce or eliminate any national monument without further action by Congress.

I also want to share my concerns that this review will be used to unfairly attack the Antiquities Act and create unnecessary confusion that would cast a cloud over past and future designations. Diminishing the status or size of monuments up to two decades after their establishment would ultimately damage the use of this important authority by creating needless uncertainty for communities already benefiting from these designations and by dissuading others from pursuing designation. The result would be lost opportunities to protect important “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest.”


Additionally I am troubled by reports that the review process falls short of ensuring the highest levels of openness, transparency, and stakeholder engagement. I cannot emphasize enough that all voices and stakeholders of our national monuments, specifically those of diverse and tribal communities, need to be heard.

As you know, the Bears Ears National Monument was created to better protect 1.3 million acres of public land in southeastern Utah which has a long history as a sacred place for the Navajo, Hopi, Ute Mountain Ute, Ute Indian, and Pueblo of Zuni. This was the first time in the history of the Antiquities Act that five sovereign tribal nations worked together to make a monument nomination to protect sacred lands and cultural sites. Unfortunately, our nation has a history of failing to consult with and properly engage tribal communities when it comes to the protection of their sacred resources. It would be tragic if the federal government were to once again ignore the wishes of our tribal brothers and sisters by not ensuring their full participation in this review.

It is critical that the Administration meet with, listen, and respect *all* community stakeholders and tribal leaders, not just a few favored industries and stakeholders. As the Secretary of the Interior, it is your responsibility to reach out to all stakeholders to explain the various steps of the review process and ensure they understand and are able to participate fully in this process.

Lastly, I encourage you to use this review process to identify and consider additional public lands for designation to fill in missing elements of our national narrative and to better represent the stories of all cultures and all people, including tribal communities.

Sincerely,



Gwen Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS