

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR BAAJ NWAAVJO I'TAH KUKVENI GRAND CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION

(in alphabetical order, by organization name)

"As a network representing thousands of interfaith leaders across Arizona, we rejoice at the call to create Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon as a national monument," **said Reverend Katie Sexton-Wood, Executive Director, Arizona Faith Network.** "Protecting sacred land is a mandate of all spiritual and religious traditions. We must listen to the voice of Hopi, Havasupai, and other Tribal leaders who claim this land as sacred and support their leadership and efforts to protect this wondrous sanctuary."

"Going back to Teddy Roosevelt, this area has been recognized for its world-renowned mule deer herd," **said Terry Herndon, President, Arizona Mule Deer Organization.** "We're happy to see a monument designation that matches the existing withdrawal area, maintains the current management of the adjacent North Kaibab Game Preserve, and prioritizes access for wildlife management and the heritage of hunting in the area."

"Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument is a responsible approach given the history of uranium mining near the Grand Canyon," **said Alan Davis, President, Arizona Trout Unlimited.** "It is unacceptable given the best science available and the known risks to our natural resources, the economy of Northern Arizona, and the communities that depend on Colorado River water that we continue to gamble with the future of the Grand Canyon region. As sportsmen and sportswomen, we value multi-use of our public lands and insist on practical and science-based approaches to managing our natural resources."

"This is some of Arizona's finest wildlife habitat and one of our nation's most iconic landscapes, so permanent protection from uranium mining while prioritizing outdoor recreation and hunting is the right thing to do," **said Scott Garlid, Executive Director, Arizona Wildlife Federation.** "Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument honors the perspectives of the tribal coalition, allows multiple uses and access, is consistent with management of the adjacent North Kaibab Game Preserve, and ultimately ensures that the area will be enjoyed by future generations."

"Hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts come from a broad range of backgrounds across the political spectrum," **said Justin Nelson, Chairman, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers - Arizona Chapter.** "The thing that ties us all together is the conservation of wildlife and wild places. Given the prodigious elk and mule deer hunting across the proposed Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand

Canyon National Monument, codifying the existing mineral withdrawal under this designation is not only good for hunters, it also ensures certainty for the future of this region.”

“The deep wisdom and beauty of the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition’s proposal are shown in the iconic Grand Canyon landscapes and irreplaceable cultural and ecological values this monument would forever protect,” **said Taylor McKinnon, Southwest Regional Director, Center for Biological Diversity.** “We thank the Havasupai, Hopi, Navajo and other tribal leaders for their vision. We join them in urging President Biden to realize that vision by designating the Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.”

“The Grand Canyon is tied to the place of origin of the Navajo, Hopi, Paiute and Zuni peoples and holds sacred significance for 11 tribes. Like many public lands, the Grand Canyon is a beautiful place full of wonder, sacredness and inspiration but also a reminder of displacement, denial of heritage rights and political oppression for indigenous peoples,” **said DJ Portugal, Federal Organizer, Chispa Arizona.** “Chispa Arizona holds this balance in mind as our Latinx community joins the local coalition of Tribes in calling on President Biden to designate a national monument and safeguard the landscape in protection of the Grand Canyon, water and Indigenous access to lands they’ve stewarded since time immemorial.”

“We are proud to follow the lead of eleven Tribal Nations in calling for federal protections for the critical waters and significant cultural sites of the Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument,” **said Blaine Miller-McFeeley, Senior Legislative Representative, Earthjustice.** “For years, the toxic legacy of uranium and hardrock mining has contaminated sacred springs and drinking wells on the ancestral lands of Tribes including the Havasupai, Hualapai, Hopi, and Navajo. Given the destructive threats posed by our outdated mining laws, the administration must act decisively to protect this spiritual and biological jewel from the mining industry’s dirty practices.”

“The original stewards of the Grand Canyon region have called upon President Biden to create Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument to protect a homeland that has been sacred to them for time immemorial and must remain so for all future generations. Regional tribes have long opposed uranium mining within the proposed monument boundaries out of concern for the health and vitality of the Grand Canyon. We congratulate the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition on this historic announcement, and we proudly follow their lead in urging President Biden to use his Antiquities Act authority to protect this landscape once and for all,” **said Ethan Aumack, Executive Director, Grand Canyon Trust.**

“There are so many reasons why protecting the Grand Canyon region is urgent and essential. The Tribes’ proposed designation of Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument provides that protection, reflecting their wisdom of, deep knowledge of, and continuing connections to their ancestral land. Tribal communities who live in the canyon depend on its clean

and reliable watershed. This is a landscape like no other in the world with unparalleled cultural, historical, ecological, recreational, and economic value," **said Camilla Simon, Executive Director, Hispanics Enjoying, Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors (HECHO).**

"Kahtoola stands firmly behind the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition and their steadfast dedication to preserve, protect and steward the lands in and around the Grand Canyon area. As a local business that values indigenous heritage and perspectives, we support the tribal led coalition's proposal to create this monument for the protection of the landscapes, waterways, wildlife, cultural values, clean water and respectful outdoor recreation. We strongly encourage the Biden administration to acknowledge the critical work of the Tribes, who are the original inhabitants and stewards of these lands through the President's authority to designate Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument," **said Danny Giovale, Founder/Owner, Kahtoola**

"The Havasupai, Hualapai, Hopi, Kaibab Paiute, Las Vegas Band of Paiute, Moapa Band of Paiute, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute, Yavapai Apache, Zuni, Colorado River Indian Tribes, and Navajo Nation people have been the original stewards of the Grand Canyon region since time immemorial. We are honored to support their vision for permanent protection, which will help preserve these sacred lands while protecting drinking water in the state and boosting the outdoor recreation economy. We proudly join the local coalition of Tribes and advocates in calling on President Biden to designate Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument," **said America Fitzpatrick, Conservation Program Director, League of Conservation Voters.**

"We strongly support the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition's leadership and vision of protection for Tribal nations' homelands and the enduring landscape surrounding Grand Canyon National Park," **said Ernie Atencio, Southwest Regional Director, National Parks Conservation Association.** "Designating the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument would ensure Tribal leadership in its management, create stronger linkages with other protected lands, and protect the watershed of the Grand Canyon in perpetuity."

"The Grand Canyon is an American icon. With its river running, hiking, canyoneering, and more, it is one of the most important landscapes to the outdoor recreation community. The larger Grand Canyon landscape is also deeply important to the Havasupai, Hopi, Navajo and other tribes, who have asked the President to take action to protect the Grand Canyon through the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument. We strongly support the tribes and their vision for protecting their homelands, especially in the face of proposed uranium mining, which would have a devastating effect on the landscape. We join the tribes in asking the President to protect the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument for its many values," **said Louis Geltman, Policy Director, Outdoor Alliance.**

"Pew thanks the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition's member nations for their many decades of leadership to protect the Grand Canyon region. The Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon

National Monument proposal is an opportunity to conserve this important region and watershed, support a critical economic engine for the local and state communities, and honor the request of Tribal nations. Pew urges the Biden administration to swiftly advance this proposal and ensure this landscape remains grand for present and future generations,” **said Marcia Argust, Director of U.S. Public Lands and Rivers Conservation Project, Pew Charitable Trust.**

“The Grand Canyon is one of the most iconic landscapes in the U.S. It is also sacred land to the Havasupai and at least 10 other Tribal nations, but these lands and waters are facing increasing threats from harmful uranium mining,” **said Sandy Bahr, Director, Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter.** “This historic Tribal-led effort would protect lands that surround one of the country’s most famous national parks and safeguard lands and waters vital to the region, including the Red Butte Traditional Cultural Property. We ask the President to listen to Tribal leaders and to establish the Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.”

“The Conservation Alliance is excited to bring a strong coalition of businesses to support the protection of Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument. Protecting this landscape under the Antiquities Act will honor the original stewards of the land, and conserve an area that is a key driver of the region’s thriving outdoor economy,” **said Shoren Brown, Vice President for Public Affairs, The Conservation Alliance.** This new monument would honor 11 local tribes’ deep connection to this storied landscape while also protecting significant biological diversity, an iconic watershed, and access to the outdoors for people from all walks of life for generations to come. “The Conservation Alliance and its more than 270 member companies stand strong in our support of the tribally-led effort to protect nearly a million acres of public lands in the proposed Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.”

“The Grand Canyon is sacred land to several Native American Tribes. It must be protected, along with the people who live in the canyon and surrounding areas, from the dangers of uranium mining contamination. We call on President Biden to stand with Tribes and use his authority to create Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument” **said Mike Quigley, Arizona State Director, The Wilderness Society.**

“Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument is broadly supported by Arizonans across party lines and has long been a priority for sportsmen and sportswomen in the state,” **said Nathan Rees, Arizona Field Coordinator, Trout Unlimited.** “Given the toxic history of uranium mining in this region, we commend the leadership of the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition to enact the wishes of millions of people hoping to preserve the beauty of this idyllic landscape. We cannot undo the toxic history that’s been left in this region, but we can prevent new contamination from destroying its future.”

“Wild Arizona offers deep thanks and our steadfast support to the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition for their monumental effort to safeguard the Grand Canyon and its rimlands, and acknowledges

their many generations of stewardship and protection of the lands, waters and wildlife of this beloved region. The Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument proposal shows the vision of regional Tribal leaders for the health and beauty of this living cultural landscape and its vital ecosystems, sacred Tribal lands and waters, and sustaining economic benefits, set against the devastating impacts of uranium mining. Wild Arizona urgently requests the Biden Administration to swiftly advance their historic proposal and ensure that the Grand Canyon's cultural connections and natural legacy be preserved and healed to honor all generations: past, present and future" **said Kelly Burke, Executive Director, Wild Arizona.**