



# City of Flagstaff

May 12, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Dear President Obama:

I have called the beautiful city of Flagstaff, AZ home for the last 17 years and have been very involved in local government for most of that time. For the last six I've been a member of the Flagstaff City Council where I have championed several land protection issues, which have earned broad local support, including a resolution supporting former Secretary Salazar's mineral withdrawal on lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. I have also been a long time advocate of wise management strategies for our federal lands that do not sacrifice their long-term health for short-term gains that result in irreparable harm to the environment.

With this letter, I respectfully request that you use your executive authority before you leave office to establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to protect 1.7 million acres of federally owned public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. I am grateful for the temporary mineral withdrawal for the lands surrounding Grand Canyon, which has given some protection to these lands, but the very unfortunate reality is that uranium mining remains a real threat.

Although Flagstaff has been working tirelessly to diversify our local economy, we are still heavily depending upon tourism. It isn't surprising that the iconic Grand Canyon generates tremendous tourism revenues and supports thousands of jobs in Flagstaff and the region.

These US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands offer a multitude of recreational and sightseeing opportunities for not only residents of the region but also millions of domestic and international tourists. They contain important wildlife corridors and habitat for large mammals such as mountain lions and mule deer and for imperiled species such as the California condor. Equally as important, they contain the watershed that is the source of drinking water for millions of people.

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*The opinions and statements written above do not necessarily represent the position of the Flagstaff City Council.*



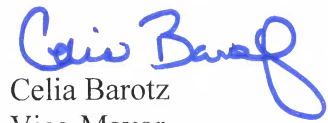
Representatives from the Navajo Nation and from the Hopi, Havasupai, and Hualapai tribes, as well as the Intertribal Association of Arizona strongly support this proposed monument because it hosts thousands of invaluable cultural sites.

The designation of this new national monument will give much-needed permanent protection to a great deal of this critical watershed and, as a report by Headwaters Economics suggests, will be a boost to our local economy.

I believe there is very strong support here in Flagstaff for this proposed monument. A recent statewide poll revealed that 80 percent of Arizona voters support a new Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. Please take this unique opportunity to leave a wonderful legacy by ensuring that this remarkable landscape in northern Arizona is permanently protected.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very sincerely,



Celia Barotz  
Vice-Mayor