

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2017

Hon. Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

While stewardship of America's national monuments is your solemn responsibility, the continued existence of those national monuments is ours.

Article IV of the United States Constitution reads in relevant part: "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . ."

Congress has delegated significant federal land management responsibilities to the Executive, including broad authorization to the President through the Antiquities Act to designate national monuments on federal land. Over more than a century, however, Congress has not delegated authority to significantly diminish or abolish an existing national monument. This includes consideration and enactment of amendments to the Antiquities Act, and the decision by the 94th Congress to enact the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (P.L. 94-579), which left the Antiquities Act intact.

The Constitutional authority to revoke or shrink a national monument lies with the Congress.

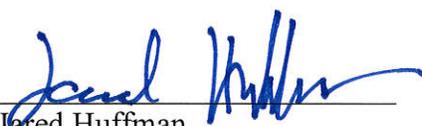
Wildfire, drought, sprawl, invasive species, unmet maintenance needs, and more threaten the unique natural, cultural, and historical resources you manage on behalf of the American people. Families living on Indian Reservations face among the highest rates of poverty and illness in the world. A changing climate is melting the glaciers for which the National Park near your hometown is named.

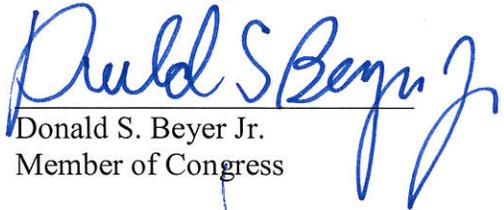
Given these significant and growing challenges, developing a report to the President regarding the use of authority he does not possess is a misuse of your time and the public's money.

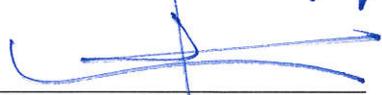
Sincerely,

Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources

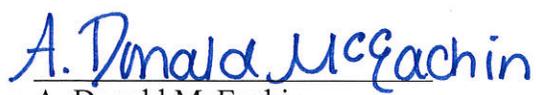

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

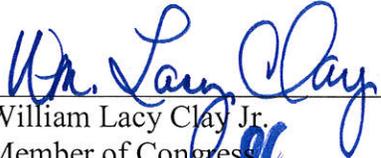

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress


Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress


Darren Soto
Member of Congress


A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

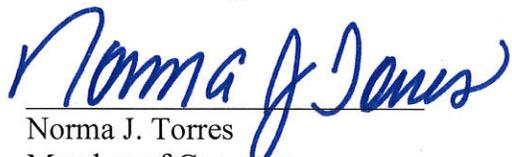

William Lacy Clay Jr.
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Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

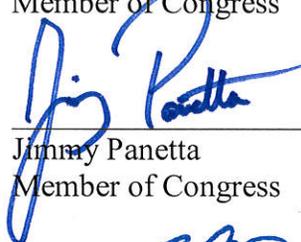

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

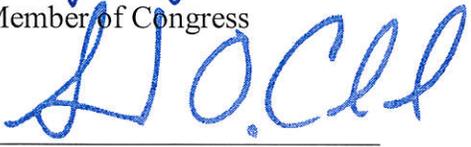

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

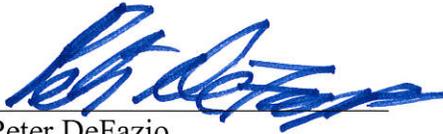

Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress


Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress


Anthony Brown
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



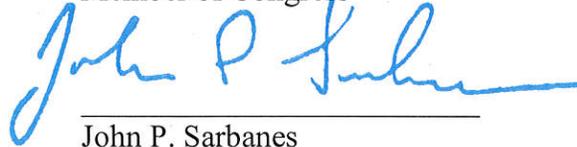
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



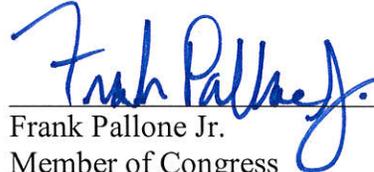
John A. Yarmuth
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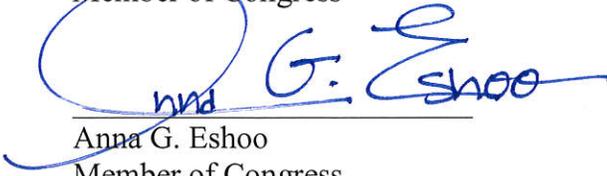
John P. Sarbanes
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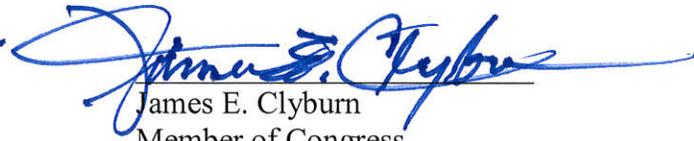
Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Frank Pallone Jr.
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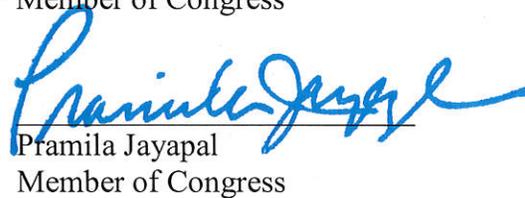
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



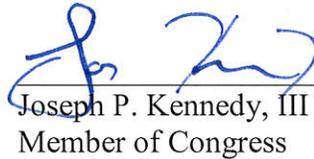
Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress



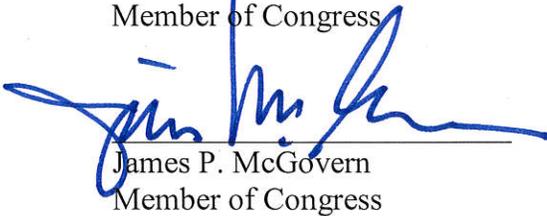
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



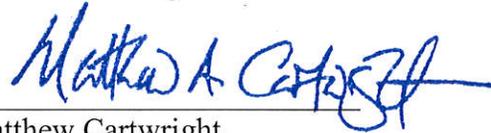
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



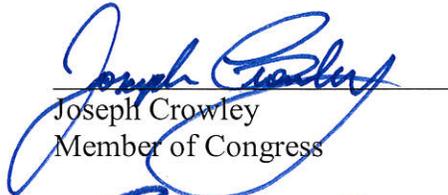
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



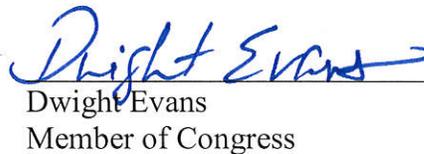
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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Brenda L. Lawrence

Brenda L. Lawrence
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Sander Levin

Sander M. Levin
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Katherine M. Clark

Katherine Clark
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Tony Cárdenas
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Bonnie Watson Coleman

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Lucille Roybal-Allard

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Debbie Dingell
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Bill Foster

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Beto O'Rourke
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Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan
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Derek Kilmer

Derek Kilmer
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Jared Polis

Jared Polis
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Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler
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Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Elijah Cummings

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell

Terri A. Sewell
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Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly

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Member of Congress

Betty McCollum

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Keith Ellison

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Adam Smith

Adam Smith
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Peter Welch

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Lloyd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett
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Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn B. Maloney
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Daniel Lipinski

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings
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Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky
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Adam Schiff

Adam Schiff
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John Garamendi

John Garamendi
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John Conyers Jr.

John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
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Yvette Clarke
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Dina Titus
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



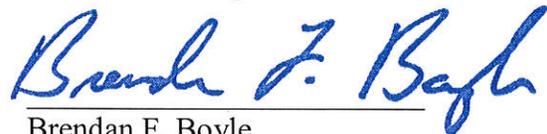
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



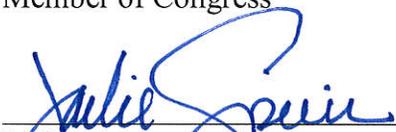
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



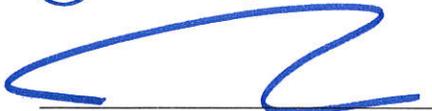
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress