

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2016

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

Dear Mr. President,

It is widely known that you are considering use of the Antiquities Act to declare a national monument in the State of Utah. We have previously written to you expressing our opposition to this action. While we appreciate the Secretary of the Interior's response to our letter, we believe it was an inadequate response, as the Department of the Interior does not possess the authority to declare a national monument.

To further communicate our strong opposition against the unilateral creation of a national monument in the State of Utah, we respectfully request the opportunity to personally meet with you to discuss our basis for opposition.

A meeting of this nature is supported by your recent public statements. In a February meeting with the National Governors Association, you stated that open lines of communication are needed when discussing national monument designations. To that end, we believe a meeting involving you, Governor Gary Herbert, the Congressional delegation, and Utah's only elected Navajo official is critical to successful communication and planning.

Finally, we hope a recent meeting we had with your staff will result in a productive dialogue regarding the Public Lands Initiative (PLI). The PLI is a balanced legislative approach to land management in eastern Utah. If passed, the PLI will establish greater land-use certainty and conserve more than four million acres of federal land. Many groups, including conservation groups, are still at the table providing feedback and comments on the draft PLI. The same draft was given to your staff on January 14, 2016 but thus far feedback has not been provided.

Thank you for your consideration. Collaborative planning is essential in the land management arena, and we look forward to meeting with you.

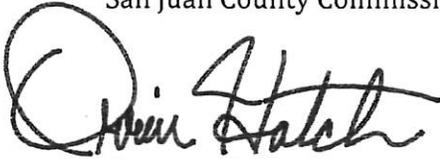
Sincerely,



Rebecca Benally
San Juan County Commissioner



Gary Herbert
Governor



Orrin Hatch
United States Senator



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Mike Lee
United States Senator



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Mia Love
Member of Congress