

Dear Representative X,

Thank you for your service to our district and our country. As citizens of this great nation all of us are called to be good stewards of the bounty upon which all life depends, to protect and defend the beauty and purity of the land and water, to have clean skies and fresh air for our children to enjoy.

As evangelical Christians, we are deeply concerned on the state of our public lands and especially three bills on national monuments currently moving through the House of Representatives. **H.R.3990, H.R. 4532, and H.R.4558** are bills that would diminish the right of all Americans to enjoy God's creation. As the Bible reminds us:

"How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all"; and "In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him"; and "The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof." (Psalms 104:24, 95:4 and 24:1).

Our public lands are essential to our quality of life. They make available to everyone what belongs to God. They reflect our highest ideals as a nation: that everyone is welcome because all individuals are created equal, endowed with the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. To step into a National Monument or National Park and enjoy the beauty of God's creation is to experience freedom and the richness of life as persons made in the image of God.

Federal lands, including those designated as National Monuments, are for all the people. It has been this way since before our Constitution was adopted. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787, that enabled Michigan to eventually become a state, and The Enabling Act of 1802 specifically insured that all lands belong to the U.S. Government for the benefit of all and not just a few.

However, all three referenced bills are designed to benefit only a few and not all Americans.

H.R.3990 - National Monument Creation and Protection Act would harm efforts to preserve and protect public lands by:

- Reducing the size of already named National Monuments;
- Eliminating "natural geographic features and objects not made by humans" from being protected in future national monuments. (The Grand Canyon could not have become a National Monument and then National using this Bill's definition.);
- Eliminating wildlife habitat from protection, a direct affront to sportsmen;
- Permanently weakening the Antiquities Act, a law signed by Teddy Roosevelt, and used by 16 different Presidents including 8 from each party
- Eliminating the possibility of protecting undiscovered cultural heritage sites that are found within a proximity to other national monuments, a direct attack on Native Americans and their heritage.

H.R.4532 - Shash Jaa National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act attempts to codify what we believe are illegal acts by President Trump in reducing existing National Monuments. This bill:

- Goes against the express wishes of the five sovereign tribal nations of the Bears Ears Commission (Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute, and Ute Mountain Ute) who have unequivocally stated their position for seeing the Bears Ears National Monument remain intact;
- Creates a sham "Tribal Management Council" to dictate the management plan for the Shash Jaa unit instead of respecting tribal sovereignty as seen in the Bears Ears Commission;

- Locks in and requires ongoing off-road vehicle travel, grazing levels and locations, and ecological activities that could be inconsistent with protecting cultural and natural resources. This ignores the work of tribal leaders who spent years designing a proposal for protecting the area as a national monument after careful study demonstrated that was the most appropriate for protecting the resources of the area.

H.R.4558 - Grand Staircase Escalante Enhancement Act advances the wildly unpopular public lands takeover of over 1 million acres of our public lands. It hands control to local officials with a well-documented disregard for federal laws. This bill:

- Provides another attempt to codify the recent reductions taken by the current Administration in National Monuments.
- Directs an outright giveaway of the 55-mile Hole in the Rock Road - which crosses Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area - to the State of Utah and away from us, the American people.

God calls us to be good stewards for all creation. Our national monuments are treasures meant to be protected and passed down for future generations to enjoy and cherish. We ask you to stand tall and vote to protect what belongs to all Americans. Please use your leadership and your faith to do the blessed thing and reject all three bills.