

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter dated June 7, 2017 regarding the Department of the Interior's ongoing review of existing national monuments.

It is clear we both share a genuine concern for transparency when decisions are made regarding national monuments, which is why I encourage you to join me in my efforts to reform the Antiquities Act of 1906. As of this month, the Act has existed for 111 years with no formal mechanism for consulting or notifying the public and local communities before a unilateral designation. Presidents of both parties have abused this Act by blindsiding communities with national monuments that had little to no local input and, in many cases, despite broad local opposition. Further, these designations have increasingly encompassed land masses that are well beyond the explicit acreage limitations of the Act.

In my home state of Utah, the entire Congressional delegation, Governor, and locally-elected officials stood united against both the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments and were not notified or consulted prior to their designations. Many other communities in states across the country have borne the burden of similar designations acted upon unilaterally, without scientific analysis and in clear violation of the Antiquities Act's intent. The Antiquities Act falls far short of providing true public input and transparency in the designation process and is long overdue for much needed reforms.

I am also pleased to let you know that after a few cursory Google searches, it appears as though the administration has already made the information you requested, in your letter dated June 7, 2017, publicly available online. Along with the extensive news coverage that detailed Secretary Zinke's meetings and travels across the State of Utah, the Department also included

information on his itinerary and media availability for everyday of his trip.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the Secretary thoroughly documented his entire trip through his public Twitter account, where he proved himself to be quite the amateur photographer when it comes to photographing the beautiful natural landscapes of my state.<sup>2</sup> In addition, as part of his ongoing review, Secretary Zinke created a first-of-its-kind public comment session, something that has never been done in the history of the Antiquities Act. You can find the comments submitted by the public at the attached link.<sup>3</sup> Utah's entire Congressional delegation also made our comments, which highlight the overwhelming lack of local and tribal support for Bears Ears National Monument, publicly available as well.<sup>4</sup>

In the spirit of transparency and open government, I sincerely hope you will join me in my efforts to reform the Antiquities Act and support Secretary Zinke as he conducts this honest, fair, and open review of previously designated national monuments.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinkes-visit-bears-ears-national-monument>.

<https://www.doi.gov/mediaadvisories/secretary-zinke-utah-officials-launch-listening-tour-utah-monuments>. Upon request, my staff will also supply your staff with numerous articles from local and national newspapers documenting Secretary Zinke's trip.

<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/SecretaryZinke>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOI-2017-0002-0001>. You can also find a link to access through your own website: <https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/media/newsletters/this-week-in-committee-our-national-monuments-are-under-attack>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.hatch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/5/hatch-congressional-delegation-urge-full-rescission-of-bears-ears-in-letter-to-zinke>.