

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 14, 2012

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President  
The United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are opposed to efforts to create national monuments within the state of Utah by presidential decree. Federal land-use decisions must be cultivated in a collaborative process that balances various stakeholder uses and priorities. Utahns of all economic and political backgrounds must be involved in this process. Presidential decrees preclude this process and would be detrimental to our state.

We recently learned through local media reports that a national interest group asked you to expand an existing national park by 1.4 million acres. Apparently, other interested parties were not involved in this proposal, including Utah's congressional delegation and Governor. We are opposed to this petition because it flies in the face of the collaborative process outlined above. Federal land-use designations affect a wide-range of stakeholders and each group should have a seat at the table.

Congressionally authored land-use initiatives are more accountable to stakeholders and produce better end-results. The congressional process ensures that all stakeholder opinions are considered and the best policy is adopted. Our offices are engaged in this process and are committed to it moving forward.

Utah's open-spaces are the most dynamic in America. From our scenic red-rock arches to our abundant deposits of oil and gas, we understand the importance of balancing competing land uses. Preserving these open-spaces for future generations and utilizing the resources in a responsible manner may be done in harmony. We are committed to finding solutions to both.

Thank you for your consideration. Again, we strongly urge the rejection of the most recent – and all future – petitions for national monument designations by presidential decree. These petitions do not consider all stakeholder points of view and disregard the congressional process.


Sincerely,



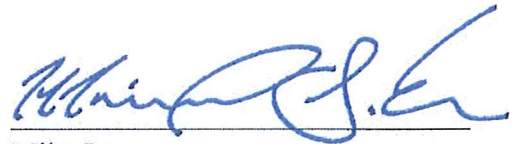
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress



Orrin Hatch  
U.S. Senator



Mike Lee  
U.S. Senator