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## Arizona State Senate

DISTRICT 1

September 23, 2015

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
United States Representative  
504 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gosar:

This letter expresses my opposition to the proposed creation of the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument (GCWNM) within Arizona and joins others including: the Arizona Legislature, U.S. Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and its commission and multiple local public officials. Without the necessary support from Arizona stakeholders this proposal for unilateral executive action should not advance.

The GCWNM would designate 1.7 million acres, making it the second largest national monument in the country and almost doubling the amount of national monument acreage in the state. Designating such a vast area – larger than the state of Delaware – requires a narrow management regime that could negatively affect the area's resources and the state as a whole.

The multiple-use policy currently managing this area was developed with public input and based on resource management plans that allows for reasonable use of the area for purposes such as recreation, grazing, mining, energy development and hunting and fishing access. Such uses provide an economic and intrinsic benefit to Arizona and a national monument designation would eliminate this benefit for a nonexistent threat.

Potentially more damaging are the consequences to the states' forests and water resources at a time when the Southwest is experiencing a 15-year drought. A national monument designation would lock away this area from crucial wildfire management and hinder water resource management practices without providing any tangible advantage.

Although it is unquestionable the Grand Canyon is a national treasure that is worth protecting, a national monument designation serves no purpose other than to harm the state of Arizona and its resources. In light of these facts, I respectfully urge you to oppose the proposed GCWNM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Pierce".

Senator Steve Pierce  
Arizona State Senate  
Legislative District 1

**Steve Pierce** <[SPierce@azleg.gov](mailto:SPierce@azleg.gov)>

8:37 PM (12 hours ago)

to me

Dear Congressman Gosar,

Attached is a letter I have sent to each Congressional Delegate representing Arizona. I send this to you with sincere intentions. A hard copy will follow.

Best regards,

Senator Steve Pierce  
Legislative District 1  
Arizona State Senate  
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