

Senator Sylvia Allen
Arizona State Senate
District 6



Committees:
Education, Chairman
Water & Energy, Vice Chair
Government, Vice Chair
Appropriations

Arizona State Senate

April 8, 2016

Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gosar,

Thank you for holding this public listening session concerning the increase in federal land grabs in the State of Arizona. Arizona's ability to provide for the "health, safety, and welfare" of its citizens is hampered by the vast amounts of land within our state that is under federal control.

I stand in strong opposition to the Grand Canyon Watershed Monument.

I know you will hear testimony on many areas of concern such as state land being impacted, along with grazing, hunting, camping, or fishing, and the closing of roads. I would like to address what I believe is a precedent-setting issue, which is to overlay within the boundaries of a federal monument a designated city/town such as Tusayan within the boundaries of the GCWM. (Sedona was within the boundaries of the Sedona Red Rock proposed monument.)

This raises the following questions:

- **Who regulates the town, the private property, and businesses if it is layered under a monument? Will Federal override State?**
- **Will Monument management regulations apply to all the businesses within the towns?**
- **Who will control growth and development issues? Will developers have to get permits from the federal agencies?**
- **Which agency of law enforcement has jurisdiction? City, county or federal?**
- **Can the Federal Government put a fee upon private property for the management costs of the monument?**
- **Who controls the water infrastructure for the towns, especially if the source is within the monument boundaries?**
- **Are individuals' rights over their property protected, including water claims, mineral claims, or grazing leases?**
- **Will road access be protected?**

Answers to these question are important for those who live and work in Tusayan and for any other such designations in the future. I believe that designating a city of the State as part of a federal monument is an infringement of state sovereignty. Past history shows us that individual rights and access to federally controlled lands are definitely restricted and controlled.

I believe it is critical for the state to stand and strongly oppose the Grand Canyon Watershed Monument.

Thank you, Congressman Gosar, for your leadership on this critical issue. I support **H.R. 3946, the Protecting Local Communities from Executive Overreach Act.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sylvia Allen".

Senator Sylvia Allen
President pro tempore
Legislative District 6

SA:kls