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July 14, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

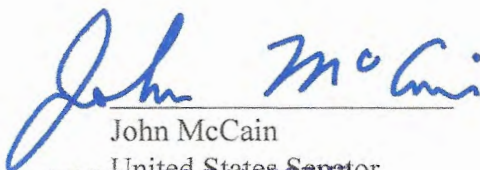
We write in support of the Department's review of recently created national monuments. Thank you for your willingness to engage in meaningful stakeholder consultation concerning the impact of monument designations issued under the Antiquities Act of 1908.

As you know, approximately 70% of the land in Arizona is owned, managed, or restricted by the federal government. At the same time, our state is host to 18 national monuments—the largest number of national monuments in the nation. Recently, the State of Arizona narrowly dodged a proposed monument, commonly called the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument, which would have locked away 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona. This “watershed monument” was opposed by a broad coalition of local stakeholders over its potential to disrupt the lives and livelihoods of small businesses, ranchers, hunters, and state wildlife managers. Fortunately, the previous Administration abandoned the proposed monument, but only in its final days and after considerable controversy that ultimately diminished the integrity of the Antiquities Act in the eyes of our constituents.

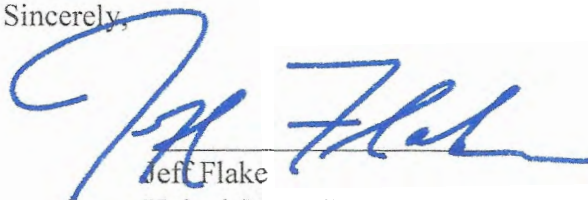
The American people should be empowered to participate in a formalized Antiquities Act process that ensures equity, transparency, and accountability. We have cosponsored a bill in the Senate, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act (S. 33), which establishes a formal consultation process for Presidents to follow before declaring future national monuments. As the Department conducts its review, we encourage you to consider supporting this legislation or developing a similar administrative process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator



Jeff Flake
United States Senator

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