

## **RE: Oppose S.220/H.R.521, which would effectively repeal the Antiquities Act of 1906**

Dear Senators and Members of Congress,

On behalf of the 247 undersigned organizations and our millions of members across the country, we write to strongly urge you to OPPOSE any legislative attempts to repeal or undermine the Antiquities Act, including [S.220/H.R.521](#) recently introduced by Senator Mike Lee of Utah and Representatives Celeste Maloy of Utah and Mark Amodei of Nevada, or other attempts to repeal protections for existing parks and monuments.

On January 16, less than one month into the 119th Congress, S.220/H.R.521 were introduced as the initial effort to gut the law that first protected nearly half of our national parks – the Antiquities Act. If the past is prologue, many more efforts to undermine this bedrock law will be introduced in the next two years. Members of Congress in both chambers have already indicated their intention to advance efforts to repeal protections for existing parks and monuments – with the House even proposing to make it easier to dispose of our public lands in the House Rules package for the 119th Congress.

For more than 100 years, the Antiquities Act has been one of our nation's most critical conservation tools for preserving our nation's most important public lands and waters. From Bears Ears to Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, our monuments and other protected public lands and waters unite all Americans by protecting our shared heritage for future generations to enjoy. The sheer diversity of historic, cultural, and natural treasures that have been protected by the Antiquities Act is the reason why hundreds of groups representing sportsmen, cultural heritage organizations, evangelicals, conservation, recreation businesses, historic preservation, and many others all oppose efforts to undermine this vital law.

Eighteen Presidents, Republicans and Democrats alike, have utilized the Antiquities Act nearly 200 times to create and expand national monuments across the country. Some of the jewels of the National Park Service such as Grand Canyon, Olympic, Zion, and Bryce Canyon National Parks began as national monuments. Without the Antiquities Act, these magnificent places would not be the protected, world class national parks they are today, parks that are loved and visited by millions of people from around the world every year and which serve as the bedrock of America's \$1.2 trillion dollar outdoor recreation economy<sup>1</sup>.

The American people, including the millions of members we represent, overwhelmingly oppose efforts to block establishment of new parks and repeal protections for the places they love. Per the Colorado College's 2024 Conservation in the West Poll, 85% of westerners support creating new national parks and monuments to protect historic sites and areas for recreation<sup>2</sup>. This support extends to our precious waters. A 2022 poll revealed that New Englanders are increasingly concerned about ocean health, with more than 80% of respondents favoring the

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<sup>1</sup> [Outdoor Recreation Roundtable](#), November 20, 2024

<sup>2</sup> [Colorado College 2024 State of the Rockies Report](#), February 14, 2024

establishment of permanently protected areas in the ocean to help address key issues. Congress should listen to the American public and work towards making our protected public lands even more inclusive of our nation's diverse history and cultures. Undermining the Antiquities Act goes against the will of the American public and their support for the establishment of future protected public lands.

National monuments drive economic growth in local economies. National monuments create jobs, enhance communities, and help promote local outdoor recreation economies which contributed \$639.5 billion in current-dollar gross domestic product (GDP) for the nation in 2023<sup>3</sup>, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Additionally, a 2020 study of communities near 14 monuments designated between 1991 and 2014 demonstrated that boosts in new businesses and jobs were associated with new monuments<sup>4</sup>.

Our organizations and the diverse array of members and interests we represent are united in our support for our national parks and monuments and the bedrock law that has made so many of them possible: the Antiquities Act. Our national parks and monuments protect our uniquely American heritage, created by a uniquely American law signed by the first conservationist president, Republican Theodore Roosevelt. With this in mind, we urge you to OPPOSE S.220/H.R.521 and any future attempts introduced in Congress to undermine the integrity of the Antiquities Act or repeal protections for existing parks and monuments.

Sincerely,

350 Colorado  
Accountable.US  
Active San Gabriel Valley  
Alaska Wilderness League  
Alexi Boado  
Alianza Coachella Valley  
Alta Peak Chapter of California Native Plant Society  
Amargosa Conservancy  
American Bird Conservancy  
American Hunters & Anglers Action Network  
American River Conservancy  
Amigos De Los Rios  
Animal Welfare Institute  
Applegate Siskiyou Alliance  
Archaeology Southwest  
Arizona Faith Network  
Arizona Trail Association  
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement

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<sup>3</sup> [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#), November 2024

<sup>4</sup> Margaret Walls et al., [National monuments and economic growth in the American West](#).Sci. Adv. 6 (2020)

Audubon Southwest  
Azul  
Basin and Range Watch  
Bikepacking Roots  
Blacks In Nature  
BLU Educational Foundation  
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, Brookline, MA  
Build A Better Planet  
CactusToCloud Institute  
California Environmental Voters  
California Native Plant Society  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
California Institute for Biodiversity  
CalWild  
Carrizo Plain Conservancy  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for conservation biology  
Chispa Arizona  
Climate Communications Coalition  
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks  
COFEM  
Colorado State Government  
Colorado Wildlands Project  
Community Land & Water Coalition (Massachusetts USA)  
Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association  
Conservation Colorado  
Conservation Lands Foundation  
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship  
Conserve Southwest Utah  
Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM)  
Creation Justice Ministries  
DamDol Enterprises  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Dolores River Boating Advocates  
Earth Ethics, Inc.  
EarthEcho International  
Earthjustice  
EarthKeepers 360  
Earthworks  
Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research  
Eastern Shoshone Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Eastern Sierra Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
EcoFlight  
Endangered Habitats League

Endangered Species Coalition  
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin  
Environmental Center of San Diego  
EPIC (Environmental Protection Information Center)  
Forests Forever  
Fort Ord Recreation Trails (FORT) Friends  
Friends of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument  
Friends of Basin & Range National Monument  
Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve  
Friends of Browns Canyon  
Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument  
Friends of Douglas-fir National Monument  
Friends of Gold Butte  
Friends of Headwaters  
Friends of International Friendship Park  
Friends of Ironwood Forest  
Friends of Madrona Marsh  
Friends of Nevada Wilderness  
Friends of Red Rock Canyon  
Friends of Rio Grande del Norte  
Friends of Rose Creek  
Friends of Sloan Canyon  
Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument  
Friends of the Amargosa Basin  
Friends of the Desert Mountains  
Friends of the Dunes  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of The Floridas  
Friends of the Inyo  
Friends of the Lost Coast  
Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks  
Friends of the Owyhee  
Friends of the San Pedro River  
Friends of the Sonoran Desert  
Futureswell  
Get Outdoors Nevada  
Grand Canyon Trust  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Greater Hells Canyon Council  
Green New Deal Network  
GreenLatinos  
Greenpeace USA  
HEAL Utah  
Healthy Ocean Coalition

Heartwood  
Hills For Everyone  
Hispanic Access Foundation  
Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO)  
Home \* Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks  
Idaho Conservation League  
Illinois Environmental Council  
Information Network for Responsible Mining  
Inland Ocean Coalition  
Institute for a Progressive Nevada  
Islanders for the San Juan Islands National Monument  
Jake Campos FOTOPRODUKTION  
John Muir Project  
Kettle Range Conservation Group  
King Range Alliance  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce  
Lassen Forest Preservation Group  
Latino Outdoors  
League of Conservation Voters  
Living Rivers Colorado Riverkeeper  
Loma Prieta Sierra Club  
López-Wagner Strategies  
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust  
Los Angeles Urban Foundation  
Los Padres ForestWatch  
Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center  
Massachusetts Forest Watch  
Mattole Restoration Council  
Michigan League of Conservation Voters  
Mojave Desert Land Trust  
Montana Conservation Voters  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
Morongo Basin Conservation Association  
Mount Diablo Bird Alliance  
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center  
Mountain Area Preservation  
Mountain Mamas  
Mt. Madonna Challenge  
National Ocean Protection Coalition  
Native American Land Conservancy  
Native Lands Institute  
Native Plant Resource Teams  
Native Voters Alliance Nevada

Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nature for All  
Nevada Conservation League Education Fund  
Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition  
Nevada Wildlife Federation  
New Mexico & El Paso Region Interfaith Power and Light  
New Mexico Wild  
New Mexico Wildlife Federation  
New York League of Conservation Voters  
North Country Trail Association  
North Fork American River Alliance  
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness  
Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project  
Ocean Conservation Research  
Ocean Defense Initiative  
Ocean River Institute, Inc  
Oceana  
OCTA  
Oregon Natural Desert Association  
Oregon Wild  
Outdoor New Mexico  
Outdoor Outreach  
OVTA  
Pacific Crest Trail Association  
Pacific Northwest Trail Association  
Partnership for Policy Integrity  
Partnership for Responsible Business  
Patagonia  
Plastic Pollution Coalition  
Project Eleven Hundred  
PROTECT OUR WOODS  
Public Lands Conservancy  
Puvunga Wetlands Protectors  
Rachel Carson Council  
Resource Renewal Institute  
RESTORE: The North Woods  
Rewilding Institute  
RISD  
Rocky Mountain Wild  
Sage Steppe Wild  
San Juan Citizens Alliance  
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council  
Save Massachusetts Forests  
Save Mount Diablo

Save Red Rock  
Sempervirens Fund  
Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
Sheep Mountain Alliance  
Sierra Business Council  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society  
Sierra Forest Legacy  
Sierra Native Alliance  
Sierra Nevada Alliance  
Sierra State Parks Foundation  
Silvix Resources  
Siskiyou Crest Coalition  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
St John Art  
Standing Trees  
Sugar Pine Foundation  
Surfrider Foundation  
Sustain Tahoe .org  
Terrahana, LLC  
The Enviro Show  
The Mountain Pact  
The Ocean Project  
The Orange County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society  
The Semilla Project and Semilla Action  
The Wilderness Society  
The Wildlands Conservancy  
Together for Brothers  
Trail Access Project  
Trust for Public Land  
Tuleyome  
Unite the Parks  
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance  
Upper Valley Affinity Group (Vermont)  
Vet Voice Foundation  
Washington Wild  
Wendell State Forest Alliance  
Western Environmental Law Center  
Western Leaders Network  
Western Watersheds Project  
Western Wildlife Conservancy  
Wild Arizona

Wild Connections

Wild Hope

Wild Montana

WildEarth Guardians

Wilderness Workshop

Williams Community Forest Project

Winter Wildlands Alliance

World Heritage USA

Wyoming Wilderness Association