

**STATEMENT FROM BADGER JOHN TO  
UTAH COMMISSION FOR THE STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS**

October 19, 2017



Hello. My name is Badger John.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the commission.

I will be reading a statement on behalf of badgers who live on public lands in Utah. I am here to clear the good name of us badgers and to set the record straight.

A member of this commission has stated that badgers are responsible for the digging and looting of archaeological sites in the Bears Ears National Monument.

I want to be make this perfectly clear. This is a falsehood. Badgers do not loot archaeological sites. People do.

We are also concerned that the film shown here today includes many falsehoods.

The narrative and accusations in the film fall in line with the overall purpose of this Commission: to demand that federal lands be turned over to the state to own or to manage.

Why should Utahns trust the legislature and the state to manage public lands when they promote falsehoods and deny commonsense scientific reality? We can't.

We need look no further than the legislature's repeated denial of the overwhelming consensus of scientists worldwide: human-driven climate change is real and it is having real, measureable impacts every day that range from hotter, more intense wildfires to prolonged drought to multiple thousand-year storm events occurring in just a few years.

How can we trust the legislature and this commission when it refuses to recognize these indisputable truths? The answer is that we can't. You have not earned our trust.

I offer one last example. As the Salt Lake Tribune recently reported, the state of Utah recently admitted it is at wits end with an oil company drilling and producing oil on state wildlife lands near Price. The lack of enforcement and the hands-off nature of state oil & gas management is a case-in-point of what would happen should Utah be given control of public lands.

Historically speaking, it was precisely the inconsistency of state-by-state enforcement of basic environmental laws that led to higher national standards in the first place.

When this commission asks people for trust while simultaneously spreading falsehoods and denying widely accepted science, it earns the mistrust of people, and badgers, everywhere.

Leave Utah's federal public lands in America's public hands.

Thank you.