

July 21, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Section 137 of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2026

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the 67 undersigned organizations and our millions of supporters in Utah and across the nation, **we write to urge you to remove Section 137 from the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2026.**

Sec. 137 would strip the Department of the Interior's (DOI) ability to manage the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument except "in compliance with the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plans...dated February 2020." If passed, this language would require the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to follow a 2020 Trump administration resource management plan that does not afford monument protections for approximately 900,000 acres of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument..

Among the most beloved of the National Conservation Lands, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah is the first and largest national monument entrusted to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conserve, restore, and protect. **First designated a National Monument in 1996 and reinstated to its full boundaries in 2021, Grand Staircase-Escalante contains unique scientific and historic resources that offer unparalleled research opportunities for earth and climate scientists, paleontologists, geologists, archaeologists, historians, and conservation biologists.** In addition, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, with its slot canyons and sweeping vistas, has become a destination place for people around the world in search of a unique wilderness experience with over one million visitors to the monument in 2022.

The BLM initiated a resource management planning (RMP) process for the restored Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument on July 28, 2022 in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 10286. BLM engaged in multiple meetings with local and state governments as well as Native American

Tribes and countless other stakeholders. A record of decision for the final plan was released on January 6, 2025 and includes the full boundaries of the restored monument. As with all National Monuments, the development and implementation of an RMP is essential for providing guidance on management and clarity to the public on management decisions. **Sec. 137 would usurp this important public process.**

We urge you to remove this language from the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill of 2026.

Sincerely,

350.org

Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance

American Hiking Society

Archaeology Southwest

Black Diamond Equipment

CactusToCloud Institute

California Environmental Voters

Californians for Western Wilderness

CalWild

Center for Biological Diversity

Climate Justice Alliance

Climate Relations LLC

Conservation Lands Foundation

Creation Justice Ministries

Dolores River Boating Advocates

Earthjustice Action

EarthKeepers 360

EcoFlight

Endangered Species Coalition

Environment America

Friends of Basin & Range National Monument

Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Friends of the Amargosa Basin

Friends of the Earth US

Friends of the Inyo

Friends of the Lost Coast

Friends of the Owyhee

Grand Canyon Trust

Grand Staircase Escalante Partners

Grand Staircase Regional Guide Association

Great Basin Water Network

GreenLatinos

Greenpeace USA

HG Conservation Solutions

Islanders for the San Juan Islands National Monument
Kettle Range Conservation Group
League of Conservation Voters
Living Rivers Colorado Riverkeeper
Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
Natural Resources Defense Council
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Mexico Wild
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
Next 100 Coalition
Ocean Conservation Research
Oregon-California Trails Association
Outward Bound Adventures
Pacific Crest Trail Association
San Juan Citizens Alliance
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
Scenic Utah
Sierra Club
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Standing Trees
The Ocean Project
The Wilderness Society
Tuleyome
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Western Slope Conservation Center
Western Watersheds Project
Western Wildlife Conservancy
Wild Hope
Wild Montana
Women of Bears Ears