

**SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS ALLIANCE * GRAND CANYON TRUST *
NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION * SIERRA CLUB *
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY * NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**

June 22, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman, House Committee on
Natural Resources

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Natural Resources

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Lands

The Honorable Joe Neguse
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Dear Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Grijalva, Subcommittee Chairman Tiffany and
Ranking Subcommittee Member Neguse,

The above-listed organizations are pleased to offer their support of a land exchange
between the United States Department of the Interior and the Utah School and Institutional Trust
Lands Administration (SITLA) as contemplated in President Biden's Proclamation establishing
the Bears Ears National Monument (Proclamation 10285).

Unified ownership and management of federal and SITLA lands within the exterior Bears
Ears National Monument boundaries by the Bureau of Land Management should lead to better
protection of monument objects and values, including irreplaceable cultural, paleontological,
biological and geological resources. Moreover, consolidation of federal ownership and
management in the greater Nokai Dome, White Canyon, Upper Red Canyon, Copper Point and
Mancos Mesa areas of San Juan County, Utah, should likewise provide for more consistent
protection of many of these same resources. **H.R. 3049, *Utah School and Institutional Trust
Lands Administration Exchange Act of 2023***, would accomplish many of these important goals
and we support that outcome.

It is also important that the process for determining approximately equal value between
the lands identified for exchange between the Interior Department and SITLA is handled fairly
and efficiently. We look forward to further discussions regarding the appraisal and valuation
process detailed in **H.R. 3049**.

Sincerely,

Stephen Bloch
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Erika Pollard
National Parks Conservation Association

Scott Miller
The Wilderness Society

Athan Manuel
Sierra Club

Tim Peterson
Grand Canyon Trust

Kabir Green
Natural Resources Defense Council