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