



## Utah Diné Bikéyah

- A non-profit working to preserve and protect the  
cultural and natural resources of ancestral Native American lands

Box 315

Bluff, Utah 84512

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San Juan County Commission  
Mack McDonald, San Juan County Administrator  
117 South Main, P.O. Box 9, Monticello, Utah 84535  
Monticello, UT 84535  
Submitted via email: [mmcdonald@sanjuancounty.org](mailto:mmcdonald@sanjuancounty.org)

March 4, 2024

**Re: Variance for 460-foot telecommunications tower in Bears Ears National Monument**

**Dear San Juan County Commission:**

Utah Dine Bikeyah strongly opposes a variance to allow a 460-foot telecommunications tower on Utah State Highway 95, near Natural Bridges National Monument, within Bears Ears National Monument.

UDB is a non-profit organization dedicated to healing of people and the Earth through supporting Indigenous communities and protecting their culturally significant, ancestral lands. Our mission is to preserve and protect cultural and natural resources of our ancestral lands to benefit and bring healing to people and the Earth.

Our homeland is the expanse of land between our four sacred mountains; it is our place of origin. Here our spiritual traditions are rooted. Today, we continue to rely on and utilize public lands, and especially lands in and near the Bears Ears National Monument for practicing our ceremonies, gathering herbs, firewood, and cedar poles, hunting for game, rejuvenating our spirits and caretaking of our sacred places. Our oral traditions, our stories, spring from the canyons and mountains of San Juan County, especially the greater Bears Ears area. Our people are surrounded by the spirits of the ancestors, and embraced by the ongoing evolution of their culture and traditions. For

Navajo people, Bears Ears is a place for healing and a place for teaching our children about meaningful and lasting connections with sacred and storied lands.

All of this is threatened by destructive land uses -- mining and irresponsible off-road vehicle use and by the rampant looting and destruction of historic and prehistoric villages, structures, rock markings, and gravesites within the Bears Ears landscape. A 460-foot tower with blinking red lights that would be visible for miles and miles is akin to a dagger in the heart of our sacred Bears Ears. The impacts of such a stark intrusion cannot be mitigated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Janet Slowman Chee'. The signature is stylized with a prominent peak on the left and a long, sweeping tail that ends in a small hook.

**Dr. Janet Slowman Chee**  
**Executive Director**  
**Utah Dine Bikeyah**

**Box 315**  
**Bluff, Utah 84512**

**janet@utahdinebikeyah**