April 15, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

We write in support of the Antiquities Act and the critical role it plays in protecting our nation’s most important and endangered places.

Since 1906, sixteen presidents have used the Antiquities Act to protect places across our nation. From Chaco Canyon in New Mexico to Harriet Tubman’s house in Maryland, the Antiquities Act has long protected key landscapes and historical sites. National monuments protect our most precious natural, cultural, and historical resources, and threats to the integrity of any monuments established under the Antiquities Act threaten the protection of all monuments.

During your confirmation process, you committed to undertaking a thorough review of the Antiquities Act proclamations of the previous Administration. Former President Trump illegally attempted to reduce the protections provided by proclamations that previous presidents issued. We urge you to defend the Antiquities Act and recommend that President Biden review President Trump’s actions and undo any unlawful attacks on the Antiquities Act.

We thank you for your commitment to the conservation of our nation’s most important places and history.

Sincerely,

/s/ Martin Heinrich  
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

/s/ Ben Ray Luján  
Ben Ray Luján  
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin  
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator