

October 15, 2019

Secretary David Bernhardt
Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Secretary Bernhardt,

We, the undersigned businesses that operate in and around Moab, Utah, write to express our opposition to the recent National Park Service memo requiring Utah's five National Parks to allow OHV travel on park roads. We strongly support the continued prohibition of use of any Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) or similar vehicles on park roads.

We urge you to take a moment to understand how Moab's thriving world-class recreation economy works, and how it has become the envy of recreation-driven communities around the nation and the world.

First, we are very proud of the role OHVs and motorized recreation play in our economy, and as with all our recreation assets, we are always looking for ways to improve the experiences we offer and meet the changing needs of the public. The Moab area boasts literally thousands of miles of OHV routes on our nearby Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service lands, and if your office would like to enhance our off-road offerings, we have many ideas to do so, including better signage of our already-designated routes. The Moab community works well with our local BLM/USFS officials and we have been successful in meeting demand for well managed recreation assets for decades, and our steadily growing economy proves it.

In Moab, we understand that we are selling recreation experiences, not simply managing polygons. Our incredible BLM, USFS, and NPS lands may look like polygons on a map, with different rules and regulations. But to us, these lands provide best quality experiences in nearly every category of recreation. These include hiking, climbing, biking, boating, and off-road driving, with important sub-categories for beginners, intermediates, and advanced participants:

- Road, mountain, and newly-created gravel bikes
- Rafts, kayaks, and relatively new stand-up-paddle boards
- Jeeps, motorcycles, and side by side OHV's
- Hiking, rock climbing and canyoneering, and
- Sightseeing tours of all types.

In addition, we have base-jumping and sky diving, and many many more incredible outdoor experiences that all depend upon our public lands. On top of all these activities, we are working to attract quality of life residents and companies who want to live near the great outdoors, and to find creative solutions to our growing infrastructure needs.

We have a very sophisticated product mix that is driving significant revenues and tax flows—all of which are dependent on equally sophisticated recreation management strategies. Many of us work with Department of Interior land managers here in Moab, and in other places around the country, and we have learned that successful land managers are managing experiences, not polygons. Thus, to suddenly introduce OHVs into our National Parks without regard to how this will affect the existing experiences and the product mix in those parks is bad land management.

In our national parks, we are working hard to manage the existing overcrowding and to provide experiences inside the parks which are consistent with the recreation assets that the parks provide. In other words, in Moab, we are working to optimize the use of every acre of our public lands, including areas for both conservation and resource extraction, and we have done this for the experiences that are best suited to take place in the parks in our region. Through this work, we have virtually eliminated conflicts between motorized and non-motorized visitors by working with our local BLM office in designating biking, hiking, and motorized routes that ensure each visitor is going to have an amazing experience without detracting from the experiences of other visitors.

We, the business owners, signing the paychecks and paying the taxes in our region, did not ask for this change. A new DOI policy requiring OHV access in Utah's National Parks will disrupt our economy and is creating controversy where there was none.

We urge you to rescind the memo requiring OHV access on national park roads in Utah and invite you to return to Moab to meet with us and our customers as soon as possible. We would like to share with you our successes in recreation management at your earliest convenience, as we have proven that DOI lands in their natural states are a growing source of significant revenues which we happily invite your department to acknowledge, celebrate, and support.

Most sincerely,

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Sandy Davis
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Tim Gaylord
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Go West Tours
Nicholas Bettinger
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San Francisco, CA

High Point Hummer & ATV
Scott MacFarland
301 S Main St
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Campground**
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Moab, UT

Escape Adventures
Jared Fisher
10575 Discovery Drive
Las Vegas, NV

Moab Artists Studio Tours
Linn DeNesti,
575 Jonny Way
Moab, UT

Moab Astronomy Tours
Crystal White
Moab, UT

Moab Trail Marathon
Danielle Ballengee
577 Cliffview
Moab, UT

Magpie Cycling
Maggie Wilson
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Moab, UT

La Sal House
Wes Shannon
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Moab, UT

**Lost River Trading
Company**
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The Love Muffin Café
Penny Shannon
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Moab Cliffs and Canyons
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Moab Cyclery
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NAVTEC Expeditions
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Whole Enchilada Shuttle Co.
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World Wide River Expeditions
Steve Hazlett
625 Riversands Road
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Cc: The Honorable Utah Governor Gary Herbert
US Representative John Curtis
US Representative Chris Stewart
Director Tom Adams, Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation