



**GAVIN NEWSOM**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

August 22, 2017

RE: National Monuments Review

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I write to express my opposition to the revocation of the protections bestowed upon lands designated as National Monuments under the Antiquities Act. These protections are essential to preserving the environmental and cultural resources of our nation's dwindling natural spaces for future generations. The wild, scenic heritage of the United States' frontiers connects our citizens to our nation's past, provides a spiritual grounding in the present, and inspires bold visions for the future.

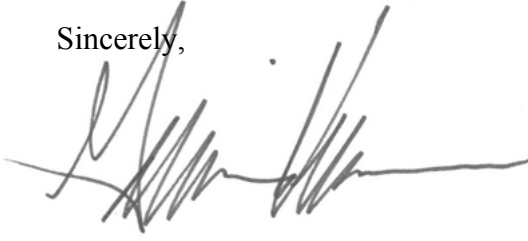
The unparalleled recreational opportunities offered by National Monuments allow American families to engage in invigorating outdoor activities, connecting them to nature and to each other. In addition to attracting local visitors, the upstanding reputation of the scenery and recreational activities at National Monuments also draws tourists from further afield. These visitors make a significant contribution to the local economies of the towns near National Monuments, and reducing or eliminating any monument would undoubtedly harm these communities.

Your recent decision to maintain the boundaries of the Sand to Snow National Monument preserves diverse habitat for 12 federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as sacred sites for the Cahuilla and Luiseño Tribes. This monument designation is clearly consistent with the intent of the Antiquities Act, and the other five California monuments under consideration (Berryessa Snow Mountains, Carrizo Plain, Giant Sequoia, Mojave Trails, and San Gabriel Mountains) are similarly vital to preserving cultural and ecological resources. The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument is particularly important to Southern California, as it provides 70% of the open space available to Los Angeles residents living in a highly urbanized environment.

Californians are proud of the scenic beauty, cultural history, and recreational opportunity found within our National Monuments. Nationwide, the *millions* of comments submitted during the public comment period unequivocally demonstrate constituents' overwhelming support for National Monuments. I urge you to consider these voices, and uphold the existing National Monument designations in California and across the nation.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

GAVIN NEWSOM  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of California