

December 16, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: A proposed Bears Ears National Monument

Dear President Obama,

Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is the national trade association for thousands of suppliers, manufacturers and retailers across the country in the \$646 billion outdoor recreation industry. The outdoor industry supports more than 6.1 million American jobs and makes other significant contributions toward the goal of healthy communities and healthy economies across the United States.

Your commitment to and protection of America's public lands and waters is an inspiration to the outdoor industry and the more than 142 million Americans who recreate outside every year. We are grateful for the recognition you have given to the important role these special places play in our shared national heritage and as the foundation of the powerful recreation economy.

I am writing to you today to ask that you once again exercise the powers provided to the president by Congress under the Antiquities Act of 1906, and protect 1.4 million acres in the Bears Ears area of southeastern Utah as a national monument. This area is of significant cultural importance to the native people of that land, but also has tremendous recreational value that must be protected.

We do not make this request lightly and have deliberated on it for more than a year. In fact, we preferred and pursued a legislative path to ensuring protections for this area and worked closely with members of the Utah Congressional delegation and the governor to find common ground and a balanced solution. Despite the best efforts of all, we were unable to find that solution and believe executive action is now the best course.

We call on you to use the authority of your office, as presidents have done since Theodore Roosevelt, to ensure this unique and special place is protected today and for future generations and stand ready to defend your declaration from those who wish to reverse it.



Thank you for your thoughtful and measured approach to protections for Bears Ears and your steadfast support for America's land and water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy J. Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Roberts" clearly legible.

Amy Roberts
Executive Director

CC: Secretary Sally Jewell, U.S. Department of the Interior

Ms. Christy Goldfuss, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality