Incomplete

Did you even read the text of the bill? Re-write needed

M. Bishop

Vote against the NO MORE NATIONAL MONUMENTS BILL

Dear Colleague:

This week, the House will consider H.R. 1459, a bill by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) that will eviscerate one of America's bedrock conservation laws, the Antiquities Act, allowing House Republicans to block the creation of any new National Monuments.

The Antiquities Act of 1906, signed by President Teddy Roosevelt, was used to protect some of America's most iconic places: the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Zion and Olympic National Parks. Half of our National Parks were originally protected using this law, which was specifically enacted to allow conservation of our natural and cultural resources quickly, when Congress is unable to meet an urgent need.

During his term, President Obama used the Antiquities Act to designate sites honoring important African American and Hispanic figures, as well as natural areas, all with broad, bipartisan community support. These designations honor our heritage and enhance our economy.

And just as the pressures of development and sprawl have intensified, Congress has reached new levels of dysfunction. With the exception of the Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, Congress had not protected a single new acre of public lands since 2009, the longest period since World War II.

Meanwhile, House Republicans have sought to deregulate mining, expose most of the U.S. coastline to unsafe drilling, make energy development on-shore less safe, prohibit regulation of fracking, give away precious public lands, override the ability of states to conserve water, and stop new rules protecting streams from mountaintop removal mining waste before they are even drafted. This record of extreme anti-environmentalism was capped off by the closure of National Parks during the Republican government shutdown.

H.R. 1459 will harm future land conservation and efforts to preserve important cultural and historic resources. This "No More National Monuments" bill is the biggest rollback of our country's ability to protect public land in more than a century. Congress must defeat this ill-advised legislation and instead work to safeguard more public lands for future generations.

Sincerely,

Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources

Raul M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation

Comment [RRB1]: HR 1459 applies NEPA reviews to National Monument designations. "Eviscerate" is the wrong term unless you believe that NEPA kills federal projects.

Comment [RRB2]: The Natural Resources Defense Council recently called NEPA the "Magna Carta" of environmental law. HR 1459 applies NEPA to monument designations. How does the "magna carta" of environmental law harm the "bedrock" environmental law?

Comment [RRB3]: The bill does not prevent creation of new national monuments. It simply requires public participation in the process.

Comment [RRB4]: We recognize the importance of national monuments which is why HR 1459 maintains Presidential authority to create them. The bill simply requires local input.

Comment [RRB5]: President Obama created two National Monuments at sites where the House of Representatives acted to congressionally designate national monuments. The dysfunction is in the Senate.

Comment [RRB6]: Currently, about 366 million acres of federal land have a special protective designation. For comparison, only 38 million acres are leased for oil and gas development.

Comment [RRB7]: This bill takes a softer approach than your approach in Oregon. Under your bill, lands in your Oregon district would be exempt from future monument designations absent congressional approval.