



May 1, 2013

Honorable Rob Bishop  
United States House of Representatives  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
[fred.ferguson@mail.house.gov](mailto:fred.ferguson@mail.house.gov)

RE: Eastern Utah Public Lands Legislation

Dear Representative Bishop and other decision making partners,

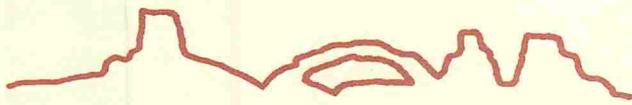
Thank you for the opportunity to voice my views on possible upcoming legislation for public lands in the greater Moab area. I own and operate several tourism dependant business; including Red Cliffs Lodge, 3 motels, a restaurant, a guide and outfitter business for horseback adventures, a horse ranch and a winery with the maintenance and other support business to keep everything running. I employ 160 or so with a several million dollar payroll. In addition I'm active in the promotion of tourism serving as chairman of the Utah Office of Tourism Marketing, committee most recently helping launch Utah's new "Mighty 5" summer national campaign. I serve on the Moab Area Travel advisory board and I'm a member of the National Parks Conservation Association for the Southeast Region. I also have experience working with our local movie industry and was a cattle ranch for many years. I mention this only as a way to introduce myself as having some experience and ability to testify as to the importance of our public lands as the sustaining backbone of tourism in this area.

I am a proponent of the multiple use of our public lands and believe that all stakeholders should be involved in any decisions regarding those lands. I believe there is room for grazing, mineral development, motorized and non motorized recreation, but that they should not all occur in the same place. I support common sense, some compromise but always with an eye for the greater good in any decision for the public land use.



For the purpose of this note I'd like to point out a few ideas I think are important for considering tourism in the conversation.

1. There is a popular misconception that tourism jobs are low paying and benefits less and less desirable. While that may have been true in the beginning I can say that my crew members make more than their peers in other non tourism jobs, they receive comparable benefits, and they like the work.
2. Tourism in our area is healthy and expanding. Salt Lake City and Wasatch front at our front door and I-70 to Denver in our back door continue to grow and those people need and want the outdoor recreation Moab provides. Moab also continues to be more known and popular nationally and internationally and is considered a bucket list place to visit. Our tourism base is diversified with two National Parks, State Parks, the Colorado river, vast open BLM and Forest Service land and a small town that has maintained its charm. I know positively that tourism is the staple of our area economy and will out preform the earlier traditional industries and will continue to lead our area economically.
3. Tourism helps improve the brand and image Utah has in the world. Many people look favorable on Utah when they come to know the great iconic beauty and recreation opportunities our Southeastern Utah has to offer.
4. Southeastern Utah tourism needs wide open spaces, some pristine and wild areas, as well as the National Parks to continue to thrive. While I **DO NOT** advocate the proposed Greater Canyonlands Monument I do encourage that as decisions are made regarding our land, some of it needs special protection.



## red cliffs lodge

moab's adventure headquarters

I talk with many of my guests daily and I hear them testify to the fact that clear skies, clean air, and iconic open space are extremely important in their choice of places to visit and or revisit. These things that are important to our visitors are also important to our movie industry and we have had a good past year, culminating with the release of the Lone Ranger in July showcasing the great, one of a kind, Utah landscapes.

As a strong advocate of tourism and a proud citizen of Moab I encourage the decision makers to consider the importance of protecting our iconic landscapes while also making room for the other multiple uses.

Sincerely,

Colin Fryer