



Ride with Respect  
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July 13th, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
Attn: Fred Ferguson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz:

We are proud to continue supporting the Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI). Your forthcoming draft is clearly a result of diligent and diplomatic work with the broad spectrum of stakeholders. Based on recommendations from all the affected counties, the draft is very close to being a bill that could pass Congress with benefit to recreation, conservation, local communities, and Native American tribes.

Of course all interested parties will seek some revision. For example, where SITLA trades into recreation zones, the off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails should be conserved through easements of some kind. Also, Ride with Respect will look for some way of ensuring that PLI legislation would not be trumped by subsequent proclamation of a national monument. Even though the draft falls short of securing state title to Class D roads, it does include language for OHV opportunities to be maintained in conservation areas and expanded in recreation areas, which we appreciate. Similar certainty is afforded to wilderness, NCA, and development areas identified in appropriate parts of each county.

Anyone with an accurate appraisal of the status quo and the available alternatives should recognize the PLI as a win-win-win-win. The counties have provided their blueprints. Interest groups with a spirit of negotiation have weighed in. Recent additions to the PLI offer more than a monument could deliver upon, in terms of preserving the Native American past and promoting the tribal future.

In Washington, we hope the legislative and executive branches will seize this opportunity to reach some resolution of long-standing controversies, and set the course for healthy communities within healthy landscapes.

In a discordant political climate, the PLI process has been rejuvenating, and we thank all participants.

Sincerely,

Clif Koontz  
Executive Director