

RECEIVED JUL 02 2013

Congressman Rob Bishop
1017 Federal Building
324 25th Street
Ogden, Ut.

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Dear Congressman Bishop,

This letter comes to you on behalf of The Sagebrush Coalition and concerned citizens of Southeastern Utah. The Sagebrush Coalition is a Moab, Utah based non-profit organization comprised of a diverse group of people with personal and private concerns pertaining to state and public lands. Many of our members are stakeholders in private interests in Moab and the surrounding areas ranging from mineral exploration, cattle grazing, tourism, and recreation. Our mission is to promote balanced environmental and public land policy as well as maintain and enhance the public's access to public lands in Utah for industry and recreation.

We are writing to inform you that we strongly oppose any legislation regarding the loss or restriction of multiple use on state or public lands in Southeastern Utah and urge you to meet with us prior to making any formal decisions on proposed legislation regarding these matters. Given that we are small rural communities whose livelihood comes from industry as well as tourism, the land we have already lost to environmental groups and the Federal Government has caused Grand and San Juan County's economies to suffer immensely. The loss of more would prove to be irrevocably detrimental. Recent history has shown that every few years the Bureau of Land Management creates more wilderness study areas and the like without discussion or regard and we simply cannot afford to let this continue. Grand and San Juan counties already have thousands of acres of de facto wilderness or wilderness study areas. Our State lands contain vast mineral resources and serve as the destination for many locals and visitors alike who use these lands for various kinds of recreation.

The State of Utah, a sovereign entity, shouldn't have to negotiate away our State lands to an ever-overreaching Federal Government or to special interest groups to achieve "compromise." The Sagebrush Coalition believes that we are simply moving in the wrong direction as a people if we engage in negotiations with groups that promote and serve an ideology fueled by fear instead of hope, conflict instead of solutions, litigation instead of education, emotion instead of science, and destroying rather than employing human resources.

Our organization respectfully invites you to come to Moab to tour our lands as well as meet with us regarding issues and policy pertaining to our state and public lands. We feel the economic well being of our area as well as our personal wishes as locals should be taken into consideration while your office is planning the Public Lands Initiative.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Respectfully,



Curtis Wells

Chairman

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