



March 1, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop
U.S. House of Representatives
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
U.S. House of Representatives
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz:

As representatives of national organizations promoting responsible motorized recreation we write to thank you for your draft Utah Public Lands Initiative legislation. While we understand that this is a draft and will see changes, and there will be requests from the local motorized recreation community for tweaks, the process used to develop this draft bill should be the model for how all comprehensive land-use bills are crafted.

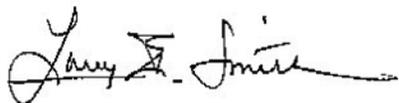
We thank you for inviting our organizations as well as representatives of many other multiple uses of public lands to take an active role in crafting this draft. While we worked with local partners, some of whom speak on behalf of some of the undersigned organizations, who will submit specific recommendations for the local areas impacted by the draft, we believe it is important to continue to support your efforts at a national level as well.

While we will allow the local motorized community to address issues related to specific riding areas and opportunities, we will join them in encouraging you to include provisions that limit the possibility of large-scale National Monument designations in the area. Without such provisions all of the hard work that you, your staffs and local stakeholders put in to developing the draft could be wiped away with the swipe of a pen. Comprehensive public lands bills should be about certainty, and without appropriate provisions limiting the possibility of Antiquities Act designations, stakeholders will always face the fear that their hard work could be trumped with little recourse available.

Also, we would like to push back against the artificial sense of urgency that always seems to permeate calls for massive National Monument and Wilderness designations. While there certainly are areas of public lands that are deserving of special designation/protection, these lands are already protected by the relevant land management agency that oversees them. Officials from the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and other agencies already have the necessary management tools to work with stakeholders to ensure that special places are protected and that multiple uses are provided for. This means that these areas are or can be protected while local collaborative processes play out. In short there is no need to rush, so it is important that everyone involved give your collaboratively-developed approach an opportunity to succeed.

Again, thank you for your concerted efforts to provide for the comprehensive management of public lands in Utah. We look forward to working with you as this process continues.





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Executive Director
Americans for Responsible Recreational
Access



Don Amador
Western Representative
BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.



Duane Taylor
Director, Federal Affairs
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Russ Ehnes
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