

## WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

“The virtues of the PLI bill include permanent protection for some of Utah’s most spectacular places, a significant funding stream for Utah’s school children, and diverse new economic opportunities for rural Utah communities provided by wilderness designations. While we continue to have concerns with some of the provisions in the bill, we support its fundamental premise: the pairing of new wilderness and other conservation units with broadly supported land exchanges between the federal government and Utah.”

**-Mike Matz, Director U.S. Public Lands, The Pew Charitable Trusts**

“The Public Lands Initiative Process has been an important effort to balance the needs for conservation, recreation and development in seven Utah counties. Today’s introduction of official legislation represents a milestone in this process. We anticipate meaningful improvements have been made since the Discussion Draft was released on 1/20/16, and we look forward to carefully reviewing what is now proposed.” – **Dave Livermore, Utah State**

**Director, The Nature Conservancy**

"The introduction of the official Public Lands Initiative language is an important step to begin the legislative process and its time-honored process for refining legislation. We anticipate the introduced version of PLI will have measurable improvements over the Discussion Draft released in January. We're committed to working with the delegation on this proposal as the hearing process gets underway to address our remaining concerns and achieve the bi-partisan support need for its passage in Congress." – **Josh Ewing, Executive Director for Friends of Cedar Mesa**

“A locally driven Congressional and legislative process like the Public Lands Initiative (PLI) has provided local residents the chance to see their concerns and needs addressed in federal policy. It gives them the opportunity to be involved in the management of places and lands they care about and have cherished for generations. I applaud the time, effort, and hard work of Congressman Chaffetz and Bishop in trying to bring certainty to the public lands issues faced daily by my constituents. The PLI provides a locally driven framework that should be followed for all public lands discussions, rather than by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., or a unilateral decision made by one person.” – **State Senator David Hinkins (R-Orangeville), Senate District 27, Co-Chairman for the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands**

"In the decades-long tug-of-war over Utah’s federal lands, the only thing certain has been uncertainty. Instead of trying to resolve the problems in single counties, the Public Lands Initiative (PLI) has brought together stakeholders from seven eastern Utah counties representing the full range of perspectives on land use. This locally driven give-and-take negotiation ultimately enables multiple land uses, facilitate economic growth and preserve pristine landscapes. While no one gets everything they want, everyone gets something that is important to them. Land conservation and economic development are not mutually exclusive, and the PLI includes meaningful gains for both. The process was open, transparent, and represents compromises made in local communities." – **State Representative Brad King (D-Price), House District 69**

“As the only elected Navajo official in Utah, I want others to know that we grass-roots Utah Navajo San Juan County residents do not want and oppose a national monument of turning our sacred sites into tourist attractions, the Public Land Initiative provides the best balance of access and protection for the Bears Ears region. Rather than a national monument that functions as a

magnet for tourism, we support a National Conservation Area that preserves local access and management. By going through a legislative process rather than an executive decree, we also achieve the long-term certainty we need. After a prolonged investment in this process, Utah Navajos can confidently support the product of this collaborative effort.” – **Commissioner Rebecca Benally, San Juan County Commission**

“I support the efforts of Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz to find a legislative solution to preserve Utah’s public lands. The Public Land Initiative (PLI) has been a result of a locally-driven discussion from various stakeholders, community leaders and citizens, who have set aside their own interest, to find a solution that best preserves the land and provides economic development for the area.” – **Speaker Greg Hughes (R-Draper), Utah Speaker of the House**

"Our U.S. Constitution places the stewardship over land use designation and policy squarely upon state and federal legislative bodies not the executive branch working in concert with special interest groups. The Public Lands Initiative is a legislative solution to complex land use designations and policy.” – **State Representative Keven Stratton (R-Orem), House District 48, Co-Chairman of the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands**

“As the elected representative for San Juan County, I strongly support San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally, who is also Navajo, in her efforts to stop the illegal designation of the Bears Ears National Monument. The PLI is supported by Commissioner Benally and her constituents and is in sharp contrast to the top-down designation of a 1.9-million-acre monument that will do nothing to advance economic development and self-reliance for the Utah Navajos.” – **State Representative Mike Noel (R-Kanab), House District 73**

“We have been honored to participate in the PLI process as one of more than 120 partners. We understand that when there are multiple stakeholders with diverse interests, the need for compromise is paramount and not any one interest will get everything it wants. Given the complexity of the bill, as it attempts to conserve millions of acres in Utah while encouraging productive uses on other lands, the risk remains that there will be some lands with oil and natural gas resources that will be designated for conservation only. We welcome the introduction of the Public Lands Initiative today, and stand ready to work with you to help ensure its success. “ – **Kathleen M. Sgamma, Vice President of Government & Public Affairs, Western Energy Alliance**

“The Utah Mining Association supports the Public Lands Initiative (PLI) and its goal of ending the gridlock and conflict regarding public lands management in eastern Utah. Through the PLI process, the Utah congressional delegation has convened a true “bottom-up” approach that has given every stakeholder an opportunity to participate and have their concerns heard and addressed. As with any compromise, we knew going in we wouldn’t get everything we wanted, but we believe the PLI has resulted in a reasoned, balanced approach to public land management. That’s something a national monument designation could never accomplish.” – **Mark Compton, President, Utah Mining Association**

“Every time a big decision is to be made concerning San Juan County it becomes painfully long. The public lands issue facing us now is no exception. I know areas in the county need protection but I support the PLI process because it allowed our residents a voice and seat at the table. We may not get all we wanted but in relation to the proposed monument the PLI will not take our beautiful mountains and valued watershed as will the proposed monument. I support PLI.” – **Commissioner Bruce Adams, San Juan County Commission**

“On behalf of the Carbon County Board of Commissioners, I lend my support and efforts to the

passage of the Public Lands Initiative (PLI). PLI is a good example of grass roots politics in action. There have been thousands of hours worked, multiple counties involved, hundreds of meetings held, diversity of both the political and societal spectrums and representation from a wide range of user groups. PLI is also a good example of collaboration as both sides of the issue have felt like they were giving up some things and gaining others. The declaration of this monument undermines the local people's ability to have a say and be involved in something that will affect their lives personally and is contrary and in opposition to a grass roots movement like the PLI." – **Casey Hopes, Chairman, Carbon County Commission**

"The PLI advances the goals of Utah's school trust to provide significant additional funding for K-12 public education. It is common sense to trade sensitive trust lands with high natural values to the United States, and trade less sensitive lands to the school trust for development of future revenue". – **David Ure, Director, Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration**

"As with any legislation that seeks to strike a balance between competing and very disparate interests there are some compromises [in the PLI] that many stakeholders (of every philosophical inclination) will find objectionable. Nonetheless we at Sharetrails/BlueRibbon find this bill to be generally as supportive as is probably possible of OHV interests and will therefore, at the request of local stakeholders with whom we work, support it. One thing that I can support without reservation is the effort that went into crafting this bill. I believe that Rep. Chaffetz was correct when he stated during the PLI meeting a few months ago that this was at its core an effort to make Utah a better place. There just isn't a lot of political upside to this. I commend Rep. Chaffetz for his willingness to wade into such a contentious public issue for little apparent gain. Every once in a rare while something happens in politics that refreshes my faith in democracy. The Utah PLI is one of those things." – **Martin Hackworth, Executive Director, Sharetrails.org/BlueRibbon Coalition**

"No matter your stand on public land management in Utah, your ultimate goal should be finality and stability. That is exactly what a Congressional/legislative process will do. The Public Lands Initiative, when passed into law by Congress, is the only legal and open process that will accomplish those goals. Within the 64% of Utah controlled by the Federal Government there's areas suitable for all interests and uses. Those areas have been identified thru the extensive efforts of hundreds of Utah citizens involved with the PLI. It's time to end the uncertainty and provide stability and finality to what can, should and will be allowed on public lands in Utah." - **Alan J. Peterson, small business owner/ avid outdoorsman, Carbon County**

"As a County Commissioner and a former BLM manager I can't say enough about the positive aspects of the PLI process. The challenge with any undertaking of this size and complexity is to establish a clear understanding of the position and concerns of the stakeholders involved. For over two years there were numerous meetings and discussions with groups and individuals representing local and national interests. These meetings did not always result in total agreement but there were compromises reached some did not think were possible. While the final outcome of the PLI is yet to be determined there can be no doubt that everyone involved has a much better understanding now than they did when PLI began. Perhaps The PLI process wasn't perfect but it is head and shoulders above any other process where the outcome is the creation of winners, losers, divisiveness and hard feelings." – **Commissioner Bill Stringer, Uintah County Commission**

"The Utah Cattlemen's Association believes that the best land management actions and political land management decisions are made by the people closest to the resource and most in touch with the area. The process of a U.S. Congressman meeting with local citizens and local

government leaders and listening to their input and then drafting and presenting a bill such as the Public Lands Initiative before Congress to address those issues, is the way our democratic government should work." – **Brent Tanner, Executive Vice President, Utah Cattlemen's Association**

"For decades, Utahns have faced the uncertainty of tens of thousands of acres of our state tied up in de facto wilderness via Wilderness Study Areas. Utah Farm Bureau appreciates the leadership of Representatives Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz to break the impasse. Through an exhaustive process that has engaged Utah Farm Bureau members at the state and local levels, PLI has brought together diverse interests and stakeholders to hammer out a compromise. Not everybody is happy! But it is the product of Utahns coming together - not abuse of the Antiquities Act for political gain." – **Ron Gibson, President, Utah Farm Bureau**

"For decades the Off Road Business Association (ORBA) has believed that public lands should have a fair and reasonable process to determine how it will be managed. This process should only be handled through congressional hearings including all local stakeholders and not through the stroke of a pen. ORBA fully supports the efforts of Congressman Bishop and Congressman Chaffetz for their dedication to an open and reasonable process. The [Public Lands Initiative] goes a long way in address the management of public land!" – **Fred Wiley, President/CEO, Off Road Business Association**

"60 years ago, the 1.4 million acres of land being considered for the Bears Ears Monument were devoid of any wildlife. Over the last 60 years, and 30 in particular, the abundant and diverse wildlife populations on these lands, were re-established nearly 100 percent with private sportsmen and state fish and game dollars. Millions of same source dollars have also been invested on restoring habitats on thee incredible public lands, as well as fencing highways. The herds of elk, mule deer, desert bighorn sheep, cougar, black bear, wild turkey and other species today are thriving and abundant, for all Americans and foreign visitors to see. These tremendous conservation efforts were accomplished under current multiple use programs. Conservation can be maintained without designation of a Monument - this area is a prime example of a well-crafted Public Land Initiative, versus a one size fits all Monument designation." – **Don Peay, Sportsman's for Fish and Wildlife**

"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." – **Clif Koontz, Executive Director, Ride with Respect**

"Emery County has been involved in a collaborative public land management process since 2008, involving many stakeholders. When we were asked to be a part of the Public Lands Initiative, we were pleased that other counties were going to engage in a similar public lands collaboration, and that we could be a part of a process that would address management issues on a regional basis. We appreciate the effort that has been made by Congressman Chaffetz and Bishop to engage stakeholders in each of the counties, and address all the many issues regarding public land management. We feel the process has been fair and inclusive. We are pleased to see draft legislation made available for further process and discussion. We look forward to continued discussion of the draft legislation as it makes it way through Congress. The Emery County Commission supports the Public Lands Initiative, and will work to ensure its success." – **Commissioner Keith Brady, Chairman, Emery County Commission**