



STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 1, 2019

Representative Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rob,

I recognize many individuals were involved in the development of the Natural Resources Management Act that passed Congress this week, but you deserve particular praise for your tireless efforts over many years, not only to conceive and refine this bill but to create the momentum and conditions for its passage. In an era when many members of Congress make the perfect become the enemy of the good, you have chosen to be an effective legislator, improving the status quo for Utah and the west. On behalf of Utah, I thank you.

The bill has much to celebrate for Utah. As we prepare to honor the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, I appreciate the creation of the Golden Spike National Historical Park in beautiful Box Elder County. I am also happy for the creation of the Jurassic National Park, the expansion of Goblin Valley State Park, and various other land conveyances that will seem minor to outsiders but are important to our rural Utah communities.

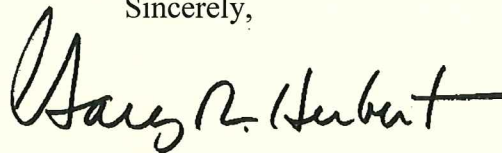
As governor I have encouraged our counties and communities to take responsibility for their own economic development, developing a vision and strategy, and letting me know how I can be helpful. This bill exemplifies the best of that bottom-up approach. You and other members of our Congressional delegation have worked for years with county leaders, mayors, and community members across the political spectrum to find solutions to their conservation and economic development challenges. Rather than *telling* them what is best for them, you have *listened*, worked with, and helped facilitate what *they* wanted. The result is a bill that will allow places like Emery County to resolve long standing public land disputes and set a new direction for their county.

Perhaps most importantly, the bill authorizes a series of land exchanges, swapping out and consolidating state parcels that are scattered and inaccessible for lands elsewhere that can be used to generate more than \$100 million for Utah's school children.

While I'm especially grateful for these Utah specific pieces within this law, I also thank you for the broad reforms that will have lasting benefits for states and particularly for western public lands states. You and I have spoken many times about the problem of a federal government that continues to acquire land, despite the overwhelming evidence it cannot effectively manage the land it already has. I am very pleased to see reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund that return the program to its original intent and require at least 40% of funds go to states. This is a reform I have supported within the National Governors Association, and I know governors around the country are grateful for this improvement.

Again, thank you for your continued good work for the state of Utah and our people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary R. Herbert
Governor