



Herman G. Honanie
CHAIRMAN

Alfred Lomahquahu, Jr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

April 18, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of all *Hopisinom* (the Hopi People) it is my honor to re-affirm the Hopi Tribe's strong support for designation of the Bears Ears region in Southeast Utah as a national monument. Specifically, the Hopi Tribe requests that you assert your authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to accomplish this long-overdue goal for Native people throughout the Southwest.

The modern day federal lands of the Bears Ears region are our Tribe's ancestral lands. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has long since documented our people's relationship to the Bears Ears region. As articulated in detail in Hopi Tribal Council Resolution AI#042-2016/H-035-2016, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to ancestral Puebloan groups that inhabited the Bears Ears. Our ancestors settled and lived in the Bears Ears region during their long migration back to *Tuwanasavi* (the Center of the Earth) on the Hopi Mesas.

We have requested avoidance and preservation of our ancestors' remains, but the federal land managers of the Bears Ears regions simply lack the capacity to do so. While we have spoken out before about this situation, most recently in September 2014 about the need to permanently protect this region through a special designation like a national monument, those calls have fallen on deaf ears in Congress.

Beginning in July 2015, the Hopi Tribe joined with four other sovereign nations to establish the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition (Coalition) to jointly advocate for permanent protection of the 1.9 million acre Bears Ears Region as a national monument, and to establish a collaborative management regime assuring co-equal Tribal engagement in future management. We appreciate your staff's willingness to meet with representatives of the Coalition, and take seriously your commitment at the 2015 Native Nations Conference to "review tribal proposals to permanently protect sacred lands for future generations." The Bears Ears National Monument proposal is exactly that, and is unprecedented as the first national monument proposal to come forth from sovereign Native American Tribes. The Hopi Tribe believes a national monument designation for the Bears Ears that comes with strong tribal collaborative management can help to stop the centuries of looting and grave robbing that continue in this area. It can also be a meaningful

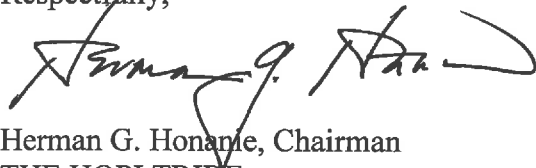
recognition of tribal sovereignty, while ensuring that the public lands of the Bears Ears remain open to all, and managed in such a way that they can forever be cherished by future generations.

Our proposal, which was delivered to your staff on October 15, 2015, was also delivered to the Utah Congressional Delegation for potential inclusion in legislation via their proposed Public Lands Initiative. Unfortunately, the Delegation refused to incorporate this proposal into their legislation, and instead proposes large-scale destructive development throughout Native American ancestral lands, and even on our Tribal partners Trust lands. Even those areas that are identified for “conservation” lack meaningful protection and are proposed to be managed by the decidedly anti-conservation state and county governments. As a result, the Hopi Tribe, along with the Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, and Ute Indian Tribes, which comprise the Coalition, have been forced to abandon the insensitive and simply unacceptable Public Lands Initiative.


The Antiquities Act was created precisely for the protection of cultural and historic objects. Such objects permeate the Bears Ears, and were left behind as “footprints” of ancient villages, trails, petroglyphs, springs, as well as our ancestors’ remains. Hopi ancestors who lived in the Bears Ears continue to inhabit the land today, and are part of a living landscape that sustains our Hopi identity. This deep and timeless connection to the Bears Ears is the basis for our request that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to establish a Bears Ears National Monument.

If the Hopi Tribe can be of any assistance, please contact Hopi Vice-Chairman Alfred Lomahquahu who serves as the Hopi Representative to, and co-chairs the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition at alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us or 928-734-3112.

Respectfully,



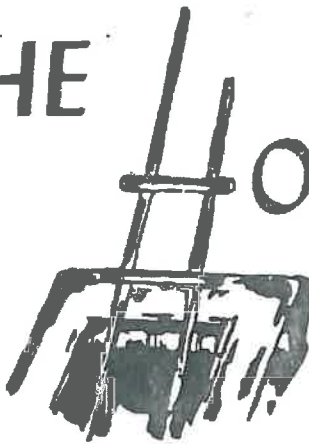
Herman G. Honanie, Chairman
THE HOPI TRIBE



Alfred Lomahquahu, Vice-Chairman
THE HOPI TRIBE

CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
The Honorable Christina W. Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality

THE HOPI TRIBE




Herman G. Honanie
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VICE-CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM

TO: Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

FROM: 
Maxine Wadsworth, Tribal Secretary
Hopi Tribal Council

DATE: March 25, 2016

SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL FOR A PRESIDENTIAL
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING BEARS EARS NATIONAL
MONUMENT – A.I. #042-2016/H-035-2016



The Hopi Tribal Council on March 22, 2016, by motion and majority vote, approved the above mentioned Action Item and Resolution.

By passage of this Resolution, the Hopi Tribal Council hereby supports the permanent long term protection of cultural and natural resources and sacred sites on these public lands through a proposal for a Presidential Proclamation designating BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Offices of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office are hereby authorized to continue consultations with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition for the purpose of developing a proposal for the Presidential Proclamation.

Should you have any questions, you may contact me at 928 734-3131. Thank you

c: Office of Chairman
Office of Vice Chairman
Office of the Treasurer
Office of Financial Management
Office of Executive Director
Office of General Counsel
Department of Natural Resources
File

HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION
H-035-2016

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, and the Hopi Tribal Council is empowered by the Constitution and By-laws of the Hopi Tribe, ARTICLE VI-POWERS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL, SECTION 1 (a), (d), and (k), respectively: “To represent and speak for the Hopi Tribe in all matters for the welfare of the Tribe . . .”; “To advise with the Secretary of the Interior and other governmental agencies. . .”; and “To protect the arts, crafts, traditions, and ceremonies . . .”; and

WHEREAS, ARTICLE IV-EAGLE HUNTING TERRITORIES AND SHRINES, of the Constitution and By-laws of the Hopi Tribe provides that the Tribal Council shall negotiate with the United States Government agencies concerned, and with other tribes and other persons concerned, in order to secure protection of the right of the Hopi Tribe to “...secure adequate protection for its outlying, established shrines . . .”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution H-098-2011, the Hopi Tribal Council adopted the 2011 revised Hopit Pötskwaniat, the Hopi Tribal Consolidated Strategic Plan, which established Hopi Tribal goals “Towards Preservation & Protection of Cultural Resources”, “to fulfill the constitutional responsibilities in the protection and preservation . . .” and to “continue the preservation and protection of cultural resources including archeological sites, traditional cultural properties and other historical properties.”; and

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WHEREAS, Hopi migration is intimately associated with a sacred Covenant between the Hopi people and the Earth Guardian, in which the Hopi people made a solemn promise to protect the land by serving as stewards of the Earth, and in accordance with this Covenant, ancestral Hopi clans traveled through and settled on the lands in and around southeastern Utah during their long migration to *Tuuwanasavi*, the Earth Center on the Hopi Mesas; and

WHEREAS, the land is a testament of Hopi stewardship through thousands of years, manifested by the “footprints” of ancient villages, sacred springs, migration routes, pilgrimage trails, artifacts, petroglyphs, and the physical remains of buried *Hisatsinom*, the “People of Long Ago,” all of which were intentionally left to mark the land as proof that the Hopi people have fulfilled their Covenant, and the Hopi ancestors buried in the area continue to inhabit the land, and they are intimately associated with the clouds that travel out across the countryside to release the moisture that sustains all life; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi footprints and clouds are part of a living, sacred landscape that nourishes and sustains Hopi identity, and this landscape is steeped in cultural values and maintained through oral traditions, songs, ceremonial dances, pilgrimages, and stewardship, and as a cultural landscape, the archaeological sites and physical terrain situates the Hopi people in time and space, providing a geographical conception of history and religion that connects the past, present and future; and

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RESOLUTION
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WHEREAS, these lands are part of our ancestral lands and Hopi history and cultural values associated with ancestral sites and landscapes are deep and abiding, and pursuant to Hopi Tribal Council Resolution H-70-94, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to Ancestral Puebloan cultural groups in the greater Cedar Mesa area, and the Hopi Tribe supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be “footprints” and Traditional Cultural Properties; and

WHEREAS, in the attached letter from Chairman Herman Honanie dated September 30, 2014 to President Barack Obama, Senator Orin Hatch, Senator Mike Lee, Congressman Rob Bishop, Congressman Jason Chaffetz, Congressman Jim Matheson, and Congressman Chris Stewart, the Hopi Tribe supported the designation of the greater Cedar Mesa area in southeastern Utah as a National Conservation Area or National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribe is fully aware that over the last few decades the archaeological, natural and geographic resources in the region have been severely impacted by looting, federal management inadequacies, industrial development, and rampant visitation including increased motorized and recreational access and inappropriate all-terrain vehicle use, and the Tribe has encouraged the Bureau of Land Management to enforce the laws protecting cultural and natural resources on public land in San Juan County and not to acquiesce to local political and illegal

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actions by proposing to make illegal motorized trails into legal motorized roads on public lands that contain irreplaceable cultural resources that have been looted for over a century and continue to be looted today; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi, Zuni, Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Navajo Tribes, composing the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, have developed a proposal for a Presidential Proclamation designating BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT that will enhance the protection of cultural landscapes and the sites within them.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hopi Tribe hereby supports the permanent long term protection of cultural and natural resources and sacred sites on these public lands through a proposal for a Presidential Proclamation designating BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hopi Tribal Council supports the proposal that BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT will be co-managed with stakeholder decision making by the Hopi, Zuni, Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Navajo Tribes, composing the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, since such a designation and co-management could accomplish the goal of prioritizing protection of cultural resources while also allowing flexibility in management of traditional Native American uses including wood, plants, medicine, ancestral sites, shrines, and hunting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that based on over century of looting and grave robbing in San Juan County, Utah, the Hopi Tribe hereby supports a provision in the proposal for

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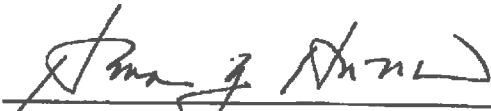
the BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT that provides for protection, preservation, and avoidance of our ancestor's human remains and associated funerary objects.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Offices of the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office are hereby authorized to continue consultations with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition for the purpose of developing and supporting a proposal for a Presidential Proclamation designating BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT, which recognizes these lands as Hopi ancestral lands and requires Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition co-management in policy formulation, management, and evaluation of results.

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CERTIFICATION

The Hopi Tribal Council duly adopted the foregoing Resolution on March 22, 2016 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 13 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstaining (Chairman presiding and not voting) pursuant to the authority vested in the Hopi Tribal Council by ARTICLE VI-POWERS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL, SECTION 1 (a), (d), and (k) of the Hopi Tribal Constitution and By-Laws of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona, as ratified by the Tribe on October 24, 1936, and approved by the Secretary of Interior on December 19, 1936, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934. Said Resolution is effective as of the date of adoption and does not require Secretarial approval.



Herman G. Honanie, Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council

ATTEST:



Maxine Wadsworth, Tribal Secretary
Hopi Tribal Council