



UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

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December 19, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write you today on behalf of the people of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to express our continuing support for the designation of a Bears Ears National Monument pursuant to the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has numerous important and sacred interests in the protection of natural and cultural resources within the Bears Ears cultural landscape. Our ancestors have occupied the region for generations and our people are intrinsically tied to the lands; our individual and collective well-being and prosperity depends upon the health of these lands.

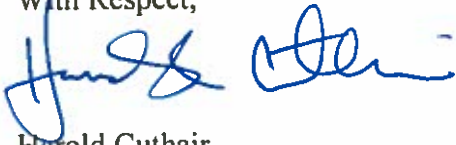
Significant to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is the proper management of the area's natural resources, native plants and wildlife that are food, shelter, and medicine, and the cultural sites that are central to our spiritual practices. Few things are more important to us than the protection and preservation we can put in place today on these invaluable natural and cultural resources.

Our desire to secure a mineral withdrawal to prevent the future disturbance and mining of uranium within the Bears Ears region makes our renewed request for protection particularly urgent in the closing days of your administration. As residents of the nearest community to the nation's last remaining conventional uranium mill at White Mesa, Utah, our people continue to suffer under the toxic legacy of uranium mining, milling, and uranium waste processing. The White Mesa community, as part of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's reservation, is located only a few miles downgradient from the uranium mill. The Tribe and individual members also hold thousands of acres of trust allotments, lands that we request remain undisturbed along with their accompanying rights, within or near the Allen Canyon corridor in San Juan County, Utah. Paramount to the Tribe is our concern for the future of, and our rights to, our water, air, lands and the continuing effects of the mill on our people. We urge you to act now by designating a Bears Ears National Monument to withdraw uranium deposits from future mining in the Bears Ears region – the future health and well-being of our White Mesa community depends on it.

As you know, our Bears Ears National Monument proposal is the first national monument proposal submitted by sovereign Native American Tribes, and our formal agreement to work together to protect Bears Ears is truly historic. We have been chosen, not only by our people, but by our ancestors to protect the Bears Ears and all its natural and cultural resources. We must

speak for innate resources and objects of antiquity that can't speak for themselves. We have a responsibility to make sure that the Bears Ears cultural landscape is there for our future. A national monument designation, taking into account the indigenous perspective to land management through collaborative or co-management with the Tribes of the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition, would accomplish this task. Please use your authority to permanently protect Bears Ears for us, for our children and grandchildren, for all Americans and for all life that depends on this important place of healing.

With Respect,



Harold Cuthair
Chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe