



Val R. Panteah, Sr.  
Governor

Birdena Sanchez  
Lt. Governor

Wilfred Eriacho, Sr.  
Head Councilman

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## **PUEBLO OF ZUNI**

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Carleton R. Bowekaty  
Councilman

Audrey A. Simplicio  
Councilwoman

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Councilman

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Councilman

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Officially known as the Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Indian Reservation

November 30, 2016

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In light of the recent national elections, I am writing on behalf of the Zuni Tribe to express our continuing support for the designation of a Bears Ears National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

We reaffirm our Tribal Resolution M70-2016-P014 of March 7, 2016, which resolved that: "the Pueblo of Zuni, along with the other nineteen Pueblos, as well as Ute Mountain, Uintah & Ouray Ute, Navajo, and Hopi Nations stand together as one unified Native American coalition dedicated to the permanent protection of the Bears Ears region and its cultural and natural resources through a national monument designation."

Our Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Tribal Council further resolved that: "the Bears Ears region of Southeastern Utah holds immense importance for all the Pueblo peoples' identity and history, including and but not limited to, villages, shrines, burials, rock inscriptions, dwellings, and ancient transportation routes, as well as natural resources necessary for traditional and spiritual practice."

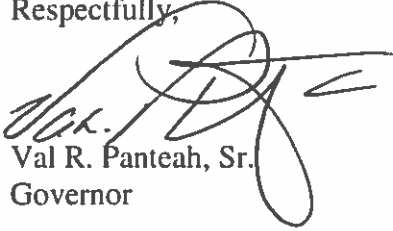
Pueblo ancestral sites in the Bears Ears region are threatened by looting, desecration, irresponsible motorized travel, and mining and energy development. These activities severely impact the historic and cultural integrity of sites. In addition, Native peoples utilize the plants and animals of the Bears Ears region in traditional practices, which are also being negatively affected by a lack of sufficient protections.

A Bears Ears National Monument designation with strong collaborative management between tribes and the federal government is a superlative opportunity to heal the damage done to the land, and to tribal peoples. It will serve as a landmark of cooperation, public benefit, and the government to government relationship with Native American tribes. This national monument will honor the cultures and identities tied to the Bears Ears, and ensure it remains a place of deep connections for our children and grandchildren.


Given that the next administration will be one of great uncertainty for both public lands and inter-governmental relations, we honorably renew our request to designate Bears Ears as a national monument,

and we urge you to act swiftly. Together we can protect the final resting places and remains of our ancestors, our cultural and sacred sites, and the natural integrity and beauty of the Bears Ears region.

Respectfully,



Val R. Panteah, Sr.  
Governor



Carleton R. Bowekaty  
Councilman

Attachment: Zuni Tribal Council Resolution Number M70-2016-P014: "Permanent Protection of Bears Ears Region through National Monument Designation."