



Herman G. Honanie
Chairman

Alfred Lomahquahu, Jr.
Vice-Chairman

November 29, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Hopi people, Hopisenom, we write to urge you to use your authority to designate of the Bears Ears region in Southeast Utah as a national monument. In responding to Native communities' request for a national monument, you will ensure future generations have the opportunity to experience their ancestral lands – their heritage – at Bears Ears as we do today.

The modern day federal lands of the Bears Ears region are the Hopi Tribe's ancestral lands. As articulated in detail in Hopi Tribal Council Resolution H-70-94, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to ancestral puebloan groups that inhabited the Bears Ears. Our ancestors settle and lived in the Bears Ears region during their long migration to *Tuuwanasavi* (the Center of the Earth) on Hopi Mesas.

We have long requested avoidance and preservation of our ancestors' remains, but the federal land managers of the Bears Ears region simply lack the capacity to do so. While we have spoken out for years 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. Meanwhile, the Bears Ears landscape continues to suffer from grave robbing, looting and disrespect. Without a national monument designation, these desecrations are only sure to grow in the years ahead.

We appreciate the efforts of your administration to work with, and listen to Tribes and other interested parties before taking action. Those steps are sure to produce a better outcome. Yet after 80 years of inaction, it should be clear that the only path to protecting Bears Ears is via the Antiquities Act – a tool created precisely for the protection of cultural and historic objects. Such objects define 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 reasserting our request that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to establish a Bears Ears National Monument.

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN

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The Hopi Tribe's support for a Bears Ears National Monument will not end the day it is designated. We are committed to partnering with federal land managers to collaboratively manage these lands in perpetuity, to advocating for appropriate resources to care for Bears Ears, and if necessary, to defending the national monument from those who may seek to undermine it. Our support, like a Bears Ears National Monument, will endure.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Herman G. Honanie, Chairman
THE HOPI TRIBE



Alfred Lomohquahu, 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

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