



ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS

571 State Park Road 56 • Livingston, Texas 77351 • (936) 563-1100

Tribal Chiefs

Principal Chief
Chief Colabe III
Clem F. Sylestine

Second Chief
Chief Skalaaba
Herbert G. Johnson, Sr.

Tribal Council

Jo Ann Battise, Chairperson
Ronnie Thomas, Vice-Chairman
Nita Battise, Secretary/Treasurer
Johnny Stafford, Member
Maynard Williams, Member
Obrey Alec, Member
David Battise, Member

July 10, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke
Department of Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Re: Letter of Support Submitted by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas to Support Protection of the Bears Ears National Monument

Dear Secretary Zinke:

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (the "Tribe") respectfully requests that this letter serve as acknowledgement of the Tribe's full support on behalf of the Dine, Ute, Hopi and Zuni Nations in their battle to protect and preserve the Bears Ears National Monument.

The scarcity and sanctity of land in the United States of America is of utmost importance to our Tribe, and because the Bears Ears monument is the first and only U.S. national monument that primarily focuses on Indigenous heritage; we believe it must be considered an even greater resource worth protecting.

Throughout history, tribes have fought an uphill battle to safeguard both our heritage and lands. The Bears Ears region has more than 100,000 archaeological sites across 1.9 million acres, which encompass petroglyphs, burial sites, and ancient cliff dwellings. President Trump's executive order threatening the elimination of Bears Ears, as well as many other important and national monuments, endangers centuries of historical and sacred spaces. This reckless attitude toward U.S. lands and Native American history must be stopped.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Ann Battise".

Jo Ann Battise
Tribal Chairperson
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas



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ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBAL COUNCIL ACITC Resolution #2017-31

PERTAINING, to the Tribal Council exercising its delegated powers under Article VI, Section I, Powers, Constitution and Bylaws of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council seeks to provide or assist in the provision of social, cultural, legal, economic and other needs for the Tribal members; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, as the governing body of the Tribe, has the power to exercise its full authorities, rights and responsibilities available under its sovereign nation status to promote the peace, health, education, jurisdiction, community, children, lands, resources and general welfare of the Tribe and its members; and


WHEREAS, the Tribal Council believes that all Tribes have the inherent right to protect their ancestral land and acknowledges the battle of the Dine, Ute, Hopi and Zuni Nations in their fight against the potential destruction and/or desecration of great historic, religious, and cultural significances; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council fully supports the Dine, Ute, Hopi and Zuni Nations in protecting and preserving the Bears Ears National Monument.

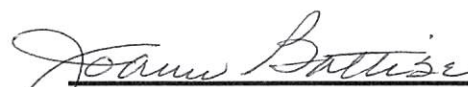
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council hereby approves this letter and thereby authorizes the Tribe to submit Exhibit A to Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, Chairperson of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, do hereby certify that the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council is composed of seven (7) members, of whom were present at a regular meeting duly called in accordance with Article V of the Tribal Bylaws on July 10, 2017 and that the Tribal Council adopted this Resolution by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained.



Nita Battise
Secretary/Treasurer,
Tribal Council



Jo Ann Battise
Chairperson, Tribal Council