President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW,
Washington, DC 20240

May 25, 2017

Dear President Trump and Secretary Zinke:

As Indigenous people who are active in Christian faith communities, we urge you to recognize the spiritual importance of the Bears Ears National Monument. We value the protections national monument status give to the sacred places in the Bears Ears region. Our ancestors have lived through a painful history of U.S. government-sponsored attempts to alienate us from our ancestral lands and eradicate our cultures. The Bears Ears National Monument is a step towards healing. It conserves important spiritual, cultural, historical, and natural heritage. We value conserving antiquities, sacred places, and natural heritage of all who have called the Bears Ears region home, and do many tribes. The newly formed Bears Ears Commission, comprised of appointees from the Hopi Tribe, Navajo nation, Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Pueblo of Zuni, have new opportunities to share their stewardship wisdom with the people of the United States. We are grateful for our first National Monument that primarily focuses on the contributions of Indigenous people. Thirty tribes with ancestral, historical, and contemporary ties to the Bears Ears region have expressed their support for protecting this living cultural landscape.

Most Christians in the United States would consider the notion absurd and abhorrent that any individual, government or a corporation could trample, shoot at, mine, or drill our graveyards, religious sanctuaries, or sacred artworks. Yet, as Indigenous people, this is a threat we know all too well. We take this threat very seriously.

Because of all these reasons, we reject any attempts to reduce or rescind the Bears Ears National Monument. Please let the Bears Ears National Monument stand.

With hope,

Alaska
Mrs. Bernadette Demientieff  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
Gwich’n Nation  
Executive Director, Gwich’in Steering Committee  
The Episcopal Church

Doreen Simmonds  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
Inupiat  
Student, Native Spirituality  
Christian

**Arizona**  
Reverend Evelene Sombrero Navarrete  
Yuma, Arizona  
Navajo  
Senior Pastor, Trinity United Methodist Church

Deena Manatowa  
Sierra Vista, Arizona  
Sac and Fox and Pawnee  
Baptist

Miss Kelsey Butler  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Sac and Fox Nation  
Christian

Judith Wellington  
Surprise, Arizona  
Akimel O’odham (Pima) and Dakota  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Miss Rolena Hyde  
Glendale, Arizona  
Navajo  
Christian

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald & Donna Caffee  
Yuma, Arizona  
Yuma  
Trinity United Methodist Church

Reverend Martha Sadongei
Phoenix, Arizona
Kiowa/Tohono O’odham
Stated Supply Pastor, Central Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Ms. Treena Parvello
Tucson, Arizona
Tohono O’odham Nation
Christian

Arkansas
Bo Horner

Texarkana, Arkansas
Chatah Nation
Boyd Union Church

California
Mrs. Raven Ross
Sand Diego, California
Navajo
Christian

Mr. Jean Maurice
La Jolla, California
Haiti
Christian

Pastor Godfree Mcintyre
Citrus Heights, California
Shoshone
Heartbeat Organic Church
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Ms. Jennifer Burgess
Hoopa, California
Comanche Nation, Hoopa Valley Tribe
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Mrs. Orena Flores
San Jose, California
Quechan
Victory Outreach

**Colorado**
Pastor Richard Silversmith
Denver, Colorado
Navajo
Christian Indian Center
Christian Reformed Church

Sheri Ann Lewis
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Navajo
Christian

Dr. Glenna Kyker
Grand Junction, CO
Choctaw
Retired educator and advocate
United Methodist Church

**District of Columbia**
Mr. Mark Robert Charles
Washington, DC
Navajo
Speaker, Writer
Christian

**Florida**
Ms. Croitiene n. ganMoryn
Ocala, Florida
UCN, United Cherokee Nation
Great Law of Peace

**Idaho**
Mr. Corbett Paul Wheeler, Sr.
Lapwai, Idaho
Nez Perce
Ordained Elder, Northfork Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Ms. Gladys Slickpoo
Lapwai, Idaho
Nez Perce
Catholic
Ruth Corbett Munoz  
Lewiston, ID  
Navajo Nation  
First Indian Presbyterian Church  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Miss Lydia Munoz  
Lewiston, ID  
Pascua Yaqui Tribe  
Christian

**Illinois**
Reverend Brian Wilkes  
Pinckneyville, Illinois  
Cherokee  
Four Rivers Native American Church

Mr. Joseph Standing Bear Schranz  
Chicago, Illinois  
Ojibwe  
Midwest SOARRING Foundation  
United Methodist Church

**Kansas**
Vance Blackfox  
De Soto, Kansas  
Cherokee Nation  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Danelle Crawford McKinney  
Lawrence, Kansas  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  
Dakota Presbytery  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Ron McKinney  
Lawrence, Kansas  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Vice Moderator, Native American Consulting Committee  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Ronston John McKinney  
Lawrence, Kansas
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
First Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)

**Maine**
Mr. Steve Byers
Belfast, Maine
Cherokee
Christian

**Maryland**
Mrs. Elissa Royall
Silver Spring, Maryland
Cheyenne
Christian

**Massachusetts**
Mrs. Heidi Tucker
Stoughton, Massachusetts
Ho-Chunk Nation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Mr. Dawn Tesorero
Roslindale, Massachusetts
bloodline Abenaki
Creation Care Coordinator, St. John’s Church JP
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Massachusetts

**Michigan**
Catherine Crowley
Suttons Bayan, Michigan
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
Kewadin Indian Mission

Ms. Julie N. Dye
Jackson, Michigan
Elder, Ex Tribal Council
Pokagon Band Potawatomi

**Minnesota**
The Reverend Dr. Bradley S. Hauff
St. Paul, Minnesota
Oglala Sioux
Missioner for Indigenous Ministries
The Episcopal Church

Ms. Kelly Sherman-Conroy
St Paul, Minnesota
Oglala Sioux Tribe
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Joann Conroy
St. Paul, Minnesota
Oglala Sioux
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor Guy E. Sederski
Ham Lake, Minnesota
Bad River (Odanah)
United Methodist Church

Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart
Egan, Minnesota
Delaware Nanticoke
Synod Executive, Synod of Lakes and Prairies
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Fern Cloud
Granite Falls, Minnesota
Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota
Presbyterian Church (USA)

**Montana**
Brother Larry Webber
Ashland, Montana
Cheyenne
Pastor, St. Labre Parish
Roman Catholic

**Nevada**
Sherry Maureen Ely-Mendes
Nixon, Nevada
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
St Mary The Virgin Episcopal Church

Mr. John McClatchy
Pahrump, Nevada
Cherokee
Postulant, St. Martin’s in the Desert
The Episcopal Church

Jacqueline Davis-Cawelti
Nixon, Nevada
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Saint Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church

Mrs. Dorothy Ely
Nixon, Nevada
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Treasurer, St. Mary’s Episcopal Church

Mr. Edward Ely Jr.
Nixon, Nevada
Winnebago Tribe
Elder
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church

Ms. Fannie Olivia Ely
Winnemucca, Nevada
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church

Mr. Ruben Joseph Ely
Sparks, Nevada
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church

Mr. Rutilio Sterling Lara
Sparks, Nevada
Pyramid Lake Paiute
National Guard
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church

New Jersey
Ms. Cynthia Ann Kent
Bellville, New Jersey
Southern Ute
United Methodist Church

New Mexico
Mrs. Carla Dean Honeyestewa  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Sac and Fox Nation  
Christian

Ms. Darlene Silversmith  
Crownpoint, New Mexico  
Navajo  
Elder  
Crownpoint Christian Reformed Church

Mr. Jordyn Monahan  
Albuquerque, NM  
Choctaw  
La Mesa Presbyterian  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Brandyn Monahan  
Albuquerque, NM  
Choctaw/Maricopa  
La Mesa Presbyterian

Carolyn James  
Albuquerque, NM  
Ojibwe  
Holy Rosary Catholic

Ms. Brandi Weare  
New Laguna, NM  
Mohave/Laguna  
Christian

**New York**
Ms. Virginia Fifield  
Rochester, New York  
Mohawk  
Sisters of Mercy  
Roman Catholic

**North Dakota**
Ms. Prairie Rose Seminole  
New Town, North Dakota  
Three Affiliated Tribes, Northern Cheyenne  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Reverend Larry Thiele  
Tokio, North Dakota  
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate  
Pastor, Dacotah Oyate Lutheran Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Ms. Ardis Shaw (Four Bears)  
Fort Totten North Dakota  
Spirit Lake Tribe  
Clerk/Treasurer, St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Mrs. Darla Thiele  
Tokio, North Dakota  
Spirit Lake Tribe  
Sunka Wakan Ah Ku Program  
Dacotah O Yate Lutheran Church

Oklahoma  
Chief Kay Rhoads  
Principal Chief  
Stroud, Oklahoma  
Sac and Fox Nation  
Christian

Miss Dorothy L. Logan  
McAlester, Oklahoma  
Choctaw  
Non-Denominational Christian

Ms. Jerri Harjo  
Chandler, Oklahoma  
Sac and Fox Nation  
First Christian Church

Jeffrey Myers  
Fairview, Oklahoma  
Sac and Fox Nation  
Assembly of God

Miss Reava Shelton  
Silver City, Oklahoma  
Sac and Fox Nation  
Non-Denominational
Mr. Daniel Shelton
Bristow, Oklahoma
Sac and Fox Nation
Christian

Anita Phillips
Park Hill, Oklahoma
Cherokee
Director, United Methodist Native American Comprehensive Plan
United Methodist Church

Jeannie Riley
Shawnee, Oklahoma
Sac and Fox Nation
Pentecostal

Richard Potts Sr.
Porum, Oklahoma
Cherokee
Non-Denominational

Dee Manatowa
Silver City, Oklahoma
Sac and Fox Nation
God’s Shining Light Church, Non-Denominational

Sasha Hobbs
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Cherokee
God’s Shining Light Church, Non-Denominational

Laura Heinz
Choteau, Oklahoma
Cherokee
Christian

Alexandria Oxford
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Cherokee
Christian

Ms. Faith Jessie
Broken Bow, Oklahoma
Choctaw
Christian

Reverend Delana McNac
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Cherokee
Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, United Methodist Church

Rachel Potts
Porum, Oklahoma
Cherokee
Christian

Katrina Exindine
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Sac and Fox
Christian

Ramone Amadore
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Sac and Fox
Christian

Amada Amadore
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Sac and Fox
Christian

Russell G Shelton
Bristow, Oklahoma
Creek
Christian

Rev. Dr. Bill Blue Eagle McCutchen
Pryor, Oklahoma
Chickasaw
Blue Eagle Wellbriety Ministry
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dr. Kat Shahan
Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Shawnee
Methodist
Timothy Lawson  
Haskell, Oklahoma  
Cherokee  
U.M.M.A, United Methodist Church

Miss Tess Oxford  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Cherokee  
Non-Denominational

Miss Casandra Cherry  
Enid, Oklahoma  
Sac and Fox  
Christian

Bill Lawmaster  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Cherokee  
Christian

Ms. Stephanie Walker  
Norman, Oklahoma  
Sauk & Fox, Creek, Absentee Shawnee, Kickapoo, Citizen Band Potawatomi  
Evangelical

Miss Stephanie Walker  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Sac and Fox  
Christian

Mary McCormick  
Office of Secretary  
Stroud, Oklahoma  
Sac and Fox Nation  
First Baptist Church

Mr. Ron Larson  
Tulsa, OK  
Cherokee  
Christian

Vanessa Brown  
Cushing, OK
Sac and Fox Nation
Christian

Leslie Homan-Pon
Tulsa, OK
Ponca, Arapaho-Cheyenne
Christian

Janis McKinney
Watson, OK
Choctaw Nation
Okay Achukma Presbyterian Church

Mr. Lyndon Karl McKinney
Watson, OK
Choctaw
Okay Achukma Presbyterian
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Anthony Monahan
Eagletown, OK
Choctaw
Mountain Fork Presbyterian Church

**Pennsylvania**
Sr. Moira Frawley
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Nez Perce and Cheyenne
Catholic

Dottie Seitz
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Southern Cheyenne
Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren

**South Dakota**
Ms. Rogene Crawford
Flandreau, South Dakota
Dakota
Presbyterian Church (USA)

**Texas**
Reverend Buddy Monahan
Odessa, Texas
Choctaw
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Ms. Sara Smith
Odessa, Texas
Mexica
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Mr. Zac Williams
Livingston, Texas
Alabama Choushatta
Deacon, Indian Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Ms. Debra L. Battiae-Kleinman
Livingston, Texas
Alabama
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Krista Langley
Livingston, Texas
Alabama-Coushatta
Presbyterian Church (USA)

**Virginia**

Jason Chavez
Christiansburg, Virginia
Tohono O’odham
Board Member, Presbyterian Mission Agency
Presbyterian Church (USA)

**Washington**

Reverend Irvin Porter
Puyallup, Washington
Pima, T’honon O’odham Nez Perce
Associate, Native American Intercultural Congregational Support
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Carmen Lansdowne
Ferndale, Washington
Heitsuk First Nation
Executive Director, First United Church Community Ministry Society
United Church of Christ

**Wisconsin**
Patricia Kligora
Dodgeville, Wisconsin
Choctaw
Christian