



We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors.

We borrow it from our children.

Native American proverb

July 16, 2016

Dept. of Interior
Sally Jewell, Secretary
Washington, D.C

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance (AKA: "MESA") is a 501-c3 non-profit registered in Utah representing the views of LDS Church members and followers in Utah and across the nation. We connect with thousands of members & followers primarily through our website and social media.

We find that educated LDS people believe scientific data and are concerned about global climate change & environmental justice. They share a reverence for the earth and a desire to be good stewards. They are aware of the many LDS scriptures that admonish us to be good stewards over the earth and protect the purity of our air, water and soil.

Furthermore, our LDS faith guides us to respect the belief practices of other cultures, especially those closest to us. We intuitively understand that they hold their faith histories to be sacred, just as we do ours. And although MESA does not represent any official Church position in our statement here today, nor in our activist role generally, we do believe that what we assert here today represents the view of hundreds of thousands of LDS people in Utah alone, not to mention the vast numbers residing in other states.

Given the continuing degradation of over 100 thousand sacred ancestral dwellings & artifacts of the five tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, and given our nation's history of broken treaties with these tribes, the extermination raids, the collective trauma from 53 forced marches of the Dine during the years of the Long Walk, and the decades of brutal acculturation methods imposed by our institutions, including our churches, it surely seems JUSTICE might be partly served should their ancestral lands be protected with a monument designation and should the tribes of the Coalition be invited to co-manage this, their ancestral land of the Bears Ears.

Therefore, we, the members and followers of Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance, valuing justice and good stewardship of the land, water and air, stand with our native brothers & sisters of the tribal coalition in supporting the most assured protection of this spectacular & sacred land of the Bears Ears.

With high regard,

Ty Markham, Chair
Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance (MESA)

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