

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 Commtee  
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  
Gods 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'hono 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