

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington DC

July 15, 2014

Dear President Obama,

As members of the broad faith community, we write to thank you for your recent designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks national monument. Stewardship of the land is a calling from God (Genesis 2:15) that we take to heart, and we are pleased to have you in shared mission. Through your action, we can be assured that preserving American history while also caring for Creation is a goal of your administration.

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region is important to people of faith from a multitude of traditions and many have spoken out in support of protection. Mountains offer a magnificent example of God's power and love as the Psalmist emphasizes, "In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of mountains are his also" (95:4). Local and regional Bishops, clergy and lay leaders have been vocal about the need to conserve this beautiful piece of Creation in southern New Mexico, so we thank you for listening to their input and taking action.

This place has historical and sacred roots that touch many of our members and it serves as a wonderful backdrop for learning about the stories of the past and the cultures that have bloomed in New Mexico and throughout the Southwest. The Organ Mountains also remain a beautiful retreat for many of the families that fill our houses of worship.

We look forward to working with you to protect the places where we pray and play which will also preserve the diverse stories and histories that define America. Please consider us as allies in the work to be stewards of Creation and thank you again for protecting this special piece of God's earth.

In thanksgiving,

Creation Justice Ministries  
Disciples Justice Action Network  
Green Chalice of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
United Church of Christ – Justice & Witness Ministries