

August 7, 2017

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Department of the Interior's review of recently created national monuments. I appreciate your input on this issue.

On April 27, 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order 13792, which requires the Interior Department to review all national monuments designations made under the Antiquities Act since 1996 that are larger than 100,000 acres. Arizona is home to 18 national monuments—more than any other state—and only four monuments are covered under the review. **The Interior Department has informed my office that none of Arizona's monuments will be rescinded or reduced in size as a result of the review.**

I support the review because many national monuments over the past 20 years were created by Presidential fiat without adequate public outreach or coordination with relevant stakeholders. Recently, Arizona narrowly dodged a proposed designation, commonly known as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument, which would have locked away 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona. This monument was opposed by a broad coalition of my constituents over its potential to disrupt the lives and livelihoods of small businesses, ranchers, hunters, and state wildlife managers. Fortunately, the previous Administration abandoned the proposed monument, but only during its final days and after considerable controversy.

At the beginning of the 115th Congress, I cosponsored the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act" (S. 33), which would require the President to obtain the consent of states before issuing a further Antiquities Act proclamation. This bill has a total of 27 cosponsors and was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on January 5, 2017.

Please be assured that I will closely scrutinize any recommendations produced by the Interior Department concerning Arizona's national monuments. Do not hesitate to contact me again on this or any other issue of concern.

Sincerely,

John McCain
United States Senator