

Date XXXXX

Secretary Ryan Zinke  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Our national monuments and public lands and waters help define who we are as a nation by telling the story of our historical, cultural, and natural heritage. I am extremely disappointed that Donald Trump has signed an executive order that attempts to undermine our national monuments. Attempts to rollback protections for national monuments would be both illegal and terribly misguided and I strongly urge you to oppose any efforts to eliminate or shrink our national monuments.

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in my home state of California is one of the treasures of our state. The region is the crown jewel of Northern California's wild inner Coast Range. It is one of the most biologically diverse, yet least known regions of California. Located less than one hundred miles from the Sacramento and Bay Area metropolitan regions, the area is a dazzling outdoor wonderland rich in unique natural features and loaded with recreational opportunities.

These public lands stretch nearly one hundred miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa to the flanks of Snow Mountain. This region provides wonderful opportunities to hike, horseback ride, hunt, camp, fish and bird watch, use motorized vehicles in designated areas, enjoy both motorized and non-motorized boating and water recreation, and more.

This area includes thriving blue oak woodlands, red fir forests, creek side habitat, an annual explosion of wildflowers, nearly half of California's dragonfly species, a wealth of butterflies, river otters, trout, tule elk, deer, mountain lions, bears, osprey, and provides habitat to California's second largest population of wintering bald eagles. The Berryessa Snow Mountain region has botanical biodiversity that makes it the center of the California global "hot spot."

Additionally, an attempt to attack one monument by rolling back protections would be an attack on them all. Sending a signal that protections for our shared history, culture, and natural treasures are not permanent would set a terrible precedent. This would discourage business investment and community growth around all national monuments while also sending the signal that our history and natural wonders are negotiable. National monuments have already been shown to be tremendous drivers of the \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy and businesses in gateway communities rely on the permanency of these protections when making decisions about investing in these communities. Whether at Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California or other monuments across the country, our national monuments should remain protected for future generations to enjoy - they are a gift that belongs to all Americans.

I am firmly opposed to any effort to revoke or diminish protections for National Monuments and I urge you to support our public lands and waters and recommend that our current national monuments remain protected.

Sincerely,  
Your name

**cc:**

Senator Dianne Feinstein, CA  
Senator Kamila Harris, CA  
Congressman Mike Thompson, District 5, CA  
Congressman John Garamendi, District 3, CA  
Congressman Jared Huffman, District 2, CA  
Mary Neumayr, Acting Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture

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