

President Barack Obama
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

April 15, 2014

Re: Recent Actions to Protect America's Public Lands

Dear President Barack Obama,

We the undersigned state legislators would like to applaud you for acting quickly on your State of the Union commitment to protect America's public lands by using your authority this spring to protect public lands along California's northern coast and call for full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We support continued administrative action to protect our public lands heritage.

From the deep river gorge at Rio Grande del Norte to the ragged coastline of Acadia, you know personally that America's public lands contain some of the most beautiful sights in the country. Each year, millions of Americans plan family vacations to these special places to enjoy these view sheds and take advantage of outdoor adventures. This passion to enjoy the outdoors spurs America's outdoor recreation economy, generating \$646 billion in consumer spending and 6.1 million direct jobs annually, as well as encouraging entrepreneurs to relocate and grow their businesses near protected public lands.

Unfortunately many of these same landscapes are also home to highly sought-after natural resources increasing the risk of mining, logging and drilling, which put these landscapes at risk. It is a pivotal moment in history to protect some of the country's last wild places to ensure future generations can enjoy them just as our economy benefits from them today.

We stand in support of your message delivered in the State of the Union that you will use your executive authority to protect our public lands.

As legislators, we encourage action from Congress to protect these landscapes but, as you know, for the last three years Congress has passed just one bill to designate new wilderness. Our economies can't afford to wait. Thank you for acting decisively to expand the California Coastal Monument to include the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands in Mendocino County, California. We hope you will continue to work with local communities to protect public landscapes including the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks near Las Cruces, NM, and Boulder-White Clouds in Idaho. Your administration can deliver a bold agenda for permanently protecting our most critically important cultural and natural heritage in your remaining years in office.

Another critical tool for protecting our public lands is America's premier conservation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). We are heartened by your continued support for this program. Since its inception, LWCF has invested nearly \$14.4 billion into protecting state and federal lands. Over 40,000 grants have come to our states and localities allowing us to give more opportunities for youth

and families to enjoy the outdoors while protecting critical habitat for wildlife. We look forward to working with you to ensure full and continued funding of LWCF and we look forward to working with you to support the full resources it deserves.

Thank you again for protecting those places “too special to develop”, and investing in our state and local economies. We look forward to continuing to work with you to make sure our parks and public lands get the funding they need and the protections they deserve.

Sincerely,

Representative Beth Kerttula
Alaska - Ret.

Senator Loni Hancock,
California

Assemblymember Tom Ammiano
California

Senator Jerry Hill, Senate Environmental Quality
Committee Chair
California

Senator Marty Block
California

Senator Ben Hueso
California

Assemblymember Richard Bloom
California

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
California

Assemblymember Rob Bonta
California

Assemblymember Marc Levine
California

Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro, Assembly
Natural Resources Committee Chair; Co-Chair,
Environmental Caucus
California

Senator Carol Liu
California

Senator Ellen Corbett, Senate Majority Leader
California

Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal
California

Assemblymember Roger Dickinson
California

Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, Assistant
Speaker pro Tempore of the Assembly
California

Senator Noreen Evans
California

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian
California

Assemblymember Paul Fong
California

Senator Alex Padilla, Senate Committee on
Energy, Utilities and Communications Chair
California

Assemblymember Mike Gatto
California

Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
California

Senator Fran Pavley, Senate Committee on
Natural Resources and Water Chair; Co-Chair,
Environmental Caucus
California

Assemblymember V. Manuel Pérez
California

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Assembly
Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife Chair
California

Assemblymember Mark Stone
California

Assemblymember Phil Ting
California

Assemblymember Bob Wieckowski
California

Assemblymember Das Williams
California

Senator Irene Aguilar
Colorado

Representative Millie Hamner
Colorado

Representative Dickie Lee Hullinghorst
Colorado

Senator Matt Jones
Colorado

Representative Paul Rosenthal
Colorado

Representative Jonathan Singer
Colorado

Representative Matthew Lesser
Connecticut

Representative Diana Urban
Connecticut

Representative Karla Drenner
Georgia

Representative Scott Holcolm
Georgia

Representative Dar'shun Kendrick
Georgia

Representative Mary Margaret Oliver
Georgia

Representative Valencia Stovall
Georgia

Representative Chris Lee, Energy and
Environmental Protection Committee Chair
Hawaii

Representative Phyllis King
Idaho

Representative Donna Pence
Idaho

Senator Melissa Stennet, Senate Minority
Leader
Idaho

Senator Elliot Werk
Idaho

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Illinois - Ret.

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Indiana

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Iowa

Representative Charles Isenhardt
Iowa

Representative Dan Kelley
Iowa

Representative Tom Burch
Kentucky

Representative Mary Lou Marzian
Kentucky

Representative Darryl Owens
Kentucky

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Maine

Representative Joan Welsh
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Delegate James Hubbard, Deputy Majority
Leader
Maryland

Delegate Ariana Kelly
Maryland

Delegate Dan Morhaim, Deputy Majority Leader
Maryland

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Representative Jennifer Benson
Massachusetts

Representative Marjorie Decker
Massachusetts

Representative Paul Donato
Massachusetts

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Representative Sean Garballey
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Representative Jay Livingstone
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Representative Liz Malia
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Representative Paul Mark
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Massachusetts

Senator Richard Moore
Massachusetts

Senator Kathleen O'Connor - Ives
Massachusetts

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Massachusetts

Senator Mike Rush
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Representative John Scibak
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Representative Frank Smizik
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Senator Karen Spilka
Massachusetts

Representative Thomas Stanley
Massachusetts

Representative Timothy Toomey
Massachusetts

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Massachusetts

Representative Chris Walsh
Massachusetts

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Michigan

Representative Jeff Irwin
Michigan

Representative Sarah Roberts
Michigan

Representative Rick Hansen
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Investments Committee
Minnesota

Representative Phyllis Kahn
Minnesota

Senator Deborah Dawkins
Mississippi

Representative Susan Meredith
Missouri

Representative Stacey Newman, Deputy
Minority Whip
Missouri

Representative Ellie Boldman Hill
Montana

Representative Virginia Court
Montana

Representative Margie MacDonald, Minority
Whip
Montana

Representative Mary McNally
Montana

Senator Mike Phillips
Montana

Representative Tom Steenberg
Montana

Representative Franke Wilmer
Montana

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Nebraska

Senator Don Preister
Nebraska - Ret.

Assemblymember Paul Aizley, Speaker Pro
Tempore Nevada Assembly
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Assemblymember David Bobzien
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New Hampshire

Representative Scott Burns
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Representative Richard Russman
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Environment Committee
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New Mexico

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Representative Tomas Salazar
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Senator Bill Soules
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Representative Mimi Stewart
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Representative Liz Thomson
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Representative Carl Trujillo
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Senator Peter Wirth
New Mexico

Senator Stephen Fischmann
New Mexico - Ret.

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Assemblymember Didi Barrett
New York

Assemblymember David Buchwald
New York

Assemblymember William Colton
New York

Assemblymember Steven Englebright, Chair,
Government Operations Committee
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Assemblymember Patricia Fahy
New York

Assemblymember Richard N. Gottfried
New York

Assemblymember Ellen Jaffee
New York

Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh
New York

Assemblymember Barbara Lifton
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Assemblymember Luis Sepúlveda
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Assemblymember Frank Skartados
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Assemblymember Harvey Weisenberg
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North Carolina

Representative Rick Glazier
North Carolina

Representative Pricey Harrison
North Carolina

Representative Graig Meyer
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Representative Earline Parmon
North Carolina

Representative Mike Woodard
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Representative Bob Hagan
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Senator Richard Devlin
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Senator Mark Hass
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Representative Paul Holvey
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Representative Carolyn Tomei
Oregon

Representative Ben Unger
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Representative Roberto Alonzo
Texas

Representative Lon Burnam
Texas

Representative Dawnna Dukes
Texas

Representative Jessica Farrar
Texas

Representative Donna Howard
Texas

Representative Ruth Jones McClendon
Texas

Representative Elliott Naishtat
Texas

Representative Ron Reynolds
Texas

Representative Eddie Rodriguez
Texas

Representative Mike Villarreal
Texas

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Utah

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Senator Barbara Favola
Virginia

Delegate Patrick Hope
Virginia

Delegate Scott Surovell
Virginia

Senator Maralyn Chase
Washington

Representative Joe Fitzgibbon
Washington

Senator Karen Fraser
Washington

Senator David Frockt
Washington

Representative Mia Gregerson
Washington

Representative Ross Hunter
Washington

Senator Karen Keiser
Washington

Senator JeanneKohl-Wells
Washington

Senator Marco Liias
Washington

Senator Steve Litzow
Washington

Senator Rosemary McAuliffe
Washington

Senator John McCoy, Ranking Member,
Environment Committee
Washington

Senator Sharon Nelson
Washington

Representative Gerry Pollet
Washington

Senator Kevin Ranker
Washington

Senator Christine Rolfes
Washington

Representative Brett Hulse
Wisconsin

Senator Mark Miller
Wisconsin

Representative Sody Pope
Wisconsin

Representative Melissa Sargent
Wisconsin