

Environmentalists Support the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

December 19, 2016

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

Dear President Obama,

We, the undersigned organizations are writing to thank you for all you have done to help protect our country's public lands. And during this year of the centennial of the National Park Service we call on you to permanently protect the Grand Canyon and surrounding land by creating the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

We are blessed with beautiful places all across the nation, and our organizations focus on protecting our natural resources and our communities' health. But of all the places we and our members love, the Grand Canyon is a special American icon. Its scenic vistas are unparalleled; it is home to wildlife from bighorn sheep to the endangered California Condor; and it is a great place for hiking, camping, and white water rafting. In addition, the Grand Canyon and surrounding lands contain sites sacred to the Native American community, and the Colorado River and its tributaries that flow through the Canyon provide drinking water for millions of people.

As environmentalists and conservationists we know how critical it is for people to have the experience of getting out into nature and the opportunity to appreciate all the great values that our public lands have to offer.

Unfortunately, the Grand Canyon and the land around it is threatened by uranium mining --- including a new mine just 6 miles away from the Canyon's southern entrance. Uranium mining has already left a toxic legacy within the national park and nearby mining will only do more of the same putting at risk water supplies, wildlife and our families' health.

During your first term, you worked with then-Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to put a temporary moratorium on new uranium mining near the Grand Canyon. We are calling on you today to permanently protect 1.7 million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon and the Canyon itself by creating the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

While all of America's lands are special, the Grand Canyon remains the crown jewel of our public lands. Thus from Washington State to Florida, Maine to California we are calling on you to create the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument before you leave office. Together we can make sure our members, our families and future generations will have the opportunity to experience the wonders of the Grand Canyon region for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Alaska

Owen Guthrie, Board President, Interior Alaska Land Trust, Fairbanks, AK

Alabama

John L. Borom PhD, President, Mobile Bay Audubon Society, Fairhope, AL

Arkansas

Gordon Watkins, President, Buffalo River Watershed Alliance, Jasper, AR

David Peterson, President-elect, Ozark Society, Greenbrier, AR

Alice B. Andrews, Conservation Chair, The Ozark Society, Little Rock, AR

Arizona

Scott Jones, President, Arizona Conservation Partners, Phoenix, AZ

Bret Fanshaw, Advocate, Environment Arizona, Phoenix, AZ

Kelly Burke, Executive Director, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Flagstaff, AZ

Wendy Russell, Coordinator, Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, Patagonia, AZ

California

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Founder/Director, Azul, San Francisco, CA

Susan Jordan, Executive Director, California Coastal Protection Network, Santa Barbara, CA

Larry Hanson, President, California River Watch, Sebastopol, CA

Doug Linney, Executive Director, California Wilderness Coalition, Oakland, CA

Kimberly Burr, Coordinator, Community Clean Water Institute, Forestville, CA

Dan Jacobson, Director, Environment California, Sacramento, CA

Larry Hanson, Board President, Forest Unlimited, Forestville, CA

Sara Dawn Husby, Executive Director and Campaign Director, Tuleyome, Woodland, CA

Helen Jaccard, Project Manager, VFP Golden Rule Project, Vina, CA

Colorado

Jeanne Bassett, Senior Associate, Environment Colorado, Denver, CO

Shelley Silbert, Executive Director, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Durango, CO

Tehri Parker, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Wild, Denver, CO

Gary Wockner, Executive Director, Save the Colorado, Fort Collins, CO

Lucie Colman, Snowriders International, Denver, CO

Connecticut

Chris Phelps, State Director, Environment Connecticut, Hartford, CT

Delaware

Alan J. Muller, Executive Director, Green Delaware, Port Penn, DE

District of Columbia

Margie Alt, Executive Director, Environment America, Washington, DC

Brenda Lee Richardson, Managing Director, Earth Conservation Corps, Washington, DC

Jennifer Krill, Executive Director, Earthworks, Washington, DC

Tara Thornton, Executive Director, Endangered Species Coalition, Washington, DC

Randi Spivak, Director Public Lands Program, Center for Biological Diversity, Washington, DC

Florida

Mary Gutierrez, Executive Director, Earth Action, Inc., Pensacola, FL

Jennifer Rubiello, State Director, Environment Florida, St. Petersburg, FL

Georgia

Jennette Gayer, State Director, Environment Georgia, Atlanta, GA

David M. Paule, Executive Director, GreenLaw, Atlanta, GA

Jim Ries, President, One More Generation, Fayetteville, GA

Iowa

Ralph Rosenberg, Executive Director, Iowa Environmental Council, Des Moines, IA

Rob Sargent, Environment Iowa, Des Moines, IA

Idaho

Kevin Lewis, Executive Director, Idaho Rivers United, Boise, ID

Illinois

David Willard, President, Chicago Audubon Society, Chicago, IL

Donnie Dann, Past President and Advocacy Chair, Bird Conservation Network, Chicago, IL

Shelley Vinyard, Regional Program Director, Environment Illinois, Chicago, IL

Indiana

Jesse Kharbanda, Executive Director, Hoosier Environmental Council, Indianapolis, IN

Kerwin Olson, Executive Director, Citizens Action Coalition of IN, Indianapolis, IN

Kansas

Ron Klataske, Executive Director, Audubon of Kansas, Manhattan, KS

Kentucky

Heather Warman, Executive Director, Kentucky Environmental Foundation, Berea, KY

Tom FitzGerald, Director, Kentucky Resources Council, Inc., Frankfort, KY

Judy Petersen, Executive Director, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Louisville, KY

Louisiana

Dean A. Wilson, Executive Director, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, Plaquemine, LA

Massachusetts

Jane Winn, Executive Director, Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), Pittsfield, MA

Ben Hellerstein, State Director, Environment Massachusetts, Boston, MA

Anthony Rogers-Wright, Policy and Organizing Director, Environmental Action, Boston, MA

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Sylvia Broude, Executive Director, Toxics Action Center, Boston, MA

Maryland

Ajax Eastman, Maryland Conservation Council, Cockeysville, MD
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Caroline Taylor, Executive Director, Montgomery Countryside Alliance, Poolesville, MD

Maine

Laura Dorle, Campaign Director, Environment Maine, Portland, ME

Michigan

Annalise Dobbstein, Environment Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Heather Good, Executive Director, Michigan Audubon, Okemos, MI
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Minnesota

Madeline Page, Environment Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Erin Gorman and Malaz Ebrahim, University of Minnesota Outdoors Club, Minneapolis, MN
Eric Tallman and Sarah Ogle, Carleton Students Organized for the Protection of the Environment, Northfield, MN
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Missouri

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Intercommunity Ecological Council, St. Louis, MO
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Mark Haim, Director, Mid-Missouri Peaceworks, Columbia, MO
Tracey Howe-Koch, Coordinator, Missouri Interfaith Power and Light, St. Louis, MO

Mississippi

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Montana

Emma Patrash, Environment Montana, Missoula, MT
Caroline Kocha, Montana State University Women's Outdoor Adventure Club, Bozeman, MT
Hannah Rieth, Vice President, Student Montana Educators' Association, Bozeman, MT
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Betsy Mulligan-Dague, Jeanette Rankin Center for Peace, Missoula, MT
Kathleen Todd, University of Montana Students for Peace and Justice, Missoula, MT

North Carolina

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Mark Kolinski, Alabama Program Manager, Wild South, Asheville, NC

Nebraska

Jane Kleeb, President, Bold Alliance, Hastings, NE

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New Hampshire

Michelle McCarthy, Environment New Hampshire, Concord, NH

New Jersey

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Sam Pesin, Friends of Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ

Miriam Mac Gillis, Founder and Director, Genesis Farm, Blairstown, NJ

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Elliott Ruga, Policy Director, New Jersey Highlands Coalition, Boonton, NJ

Greg Gorman, Conservation Chair, New Jersey Sierra Club, Trenton, NJ

Laurie Howard, Chair, Passaic River Coalition, Morristown, NJ

Joy Morgan, Founder, Activism Club, Highland Park, NJ

New Mexico

Thomas Solomon, Co-coordinator, 350.org New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Joseph Zupan, Executive Director, Amigos Bravos, Taos, NM

Elisabeth Jennings, Executive Director, Animal Protection of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Ahni Rocheleau, Executive Director, Campaign to END SACRIFICE ZONES, Santa Fe, NM

Sanders Moore, State Director, Environment New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

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Nevada

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New York

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Heather Leibowitz, State Director, Environment New York, New York, NY

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Ohio

Hallie Neuhaus, Environment Ohio, Columbus, OH

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Aryeh Alex, Action Fund Director, Ohio Environmental Council, Columbus, OH

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Michelle Wentling, President, Students for A Sustainable Campus, Columbus, OH

Jeffrey Corney, Executive Director, The Wilderness Center, Wilmot, OH

Oklahoma

John Kennington, President, Tulsa Audubon Society, Tulsa, OK

Oregon

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Pennsylvania

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Rhode Island

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South Carolina

Andrew Waters, Executive Director, Spartanburg Area Conservancy, Spartanburg, SC

Tennessee

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Dennis Gregg, Executive Director, Obed Watershed Community Association, Crossville, TN

Texas

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June Kachtik, The Green Team - First UU Church of San Antonio, San Antonio, TX

Utah

Eric Balken, Executive Director, Glen Canyon Institute, Salt Lake City, UT

Virginia

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Vermont

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Washington

Risa Nagel and Rebecca Houske, Environment Washington, Seattle, WA

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Wisconsin

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West Virginia

Judith Rodd, Director, Friends of Blackwater, Charleston, WV

Wyoming

Connie Wilbert, Director, Sierra Club Wyoming Chapter, Laramie, WY