

December 19, 2016

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

Dear President Obama,

We, the undersigned faculty and administrators from campuses across the country, are writing to thank you for all you have done to help protect public lands and, as we celebrate 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 country, but 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; it is a great place for hiking, camping, and white water rafting. In addition, the 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 over 38 million people.

With over 5.5 million visitors last year alone the Grand Canyon also sustains thousands of jobs and generates \$300 million in economic activity.

As members of the campus community we know how critical it is for young people to have the experience of getting out into nature and the opportunity to appreciate the great value that our public lands have to offer.

Unfortunately, the Grand Canyon 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. 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.

As part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, we urge you to protect the lands surrounding the Grand Canyon and the Canyon itself from harmful uranium mining. Together we can make sure our students, our families and future generations will have the opportunity to experience the wonders of the Grand Canyon region for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

**Arizona**

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