

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 7, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We are writing to provide an update on the Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI). Since our meeting with Senior Obama Administration officials on April 29, 2016, much progress has been made on the PLI legislative text. We have received more than 50 detailed comments regarding the draft bill released in January.

We would like to thank participating mainstream non-governmental organizations, staff from the Council on Environmental Quality and the Department of the Interior (Department), and our partners at the state and county level, the bill text has been amended and strengthened.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Department with an outline of the delegation's legislative strategy and next steps.

**Bill Introduction:** The Utah Public Lands Initiative Act will be formally introduced before the House of Representatives goes into the July/August District Work Period. Many stakeholders, including the Administration, have urged the delegation to introduce a bill to expedite discussions on legislative text and provisions. We agree. A formal bill will allow stakeholders, the Administration, and the public to review the language and associated maps to better prepare for Congressional hearings and bill markup.

**Local Meeting:** We understand that you will be holding a public meeting in southeast Utah with various Administration officials on July 16, 2016. We believe the best format to discuss land management is on the ground with local voices. We are pleased that you have chosen to visit Utah to discuss PLI.

**PLI Field Hearing:** Senator Mike Lee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a formal field hearing to discuss the PLI process and corresponding bill text during the last week in July. We regret that you could not attend and hope the Department will participate in this important discussion about the process, legislation, and path forward.

**Bears Ears Hearing:** Most, if not all, agree that the Bears Ears are deserving of a federal conservation designation. Major disagreements exist on how best to achieve this goal. The delegation intends to convene a formal hearing during the latter half of August. During this

hearing, all sides of the debate will be represented in order to better understand the best path forward for the Bears Ears.

**Legislative Hearing:** The House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a legislative hearing on the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act during the September work period. The purpose of the hearing is to hear directly from local counties, impacted stakeholders, and the Administration concerning the multitude of provisions included in the final bill.

**Legislative Markup:** The House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a markup of the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act during the September work period. Legislative markups are necessary components of the legislative process. The markup will provide an opportunity for technical errors to be corrected, amendments to be offered, and language clarified before it goes to the House Floor.

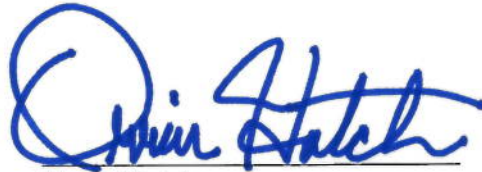
Again, thank you for your commitment to a legislative approach to land management issues in eastern Utah. The above outline provides ample time for the public, the Administration, and other Members of Congress to review the bill in the lead-up to September's hearings and markup.

As we have repeatedly stated, legislation ensures local participation and guarantees a balanced product. The delegation, local elected officials, and many local tribal organizations remain unified in our opposition to the unilateral use of the Antiquities Act in Utah. We look forward to working together.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



Orrin Hatch  
U.S. Senator



Mike Lee  
U.S. Senator



Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress