

February 18, 2011

The Honorable Mike Crapo
U.S. Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act

Dear Senator Crapo:

We are pleased to inform you that the undersigned organizations strongly support and endorse the National Monuments Designation Transparency and Accountability Act. Over the years, Presidents have aggressively used the Antiquities Act to designate hundreds of thousands of acres of land across the western United States as national monuments, most often to the detriment of multiple-use activities including livestock grazing. We are committed to working with you and your staff to bring congressional oversight into this process.

Your legislation is crucial to preventing the locking up of millions more acres of public land. An Interior Department document leaked on February 14, 2010 indicated that the Obama Administration may be seeking to designate 14 new monuments under the Antiquities Act, amounting to more than 13 million acres of land, spanning from Montana to New Mexico. Such designations would be devastating to our nation's federal lands ranchers and a burden to rural economies across the west. Your bill would ensure thoughtful congressional debate, input from the local stakeholders affected by the proposed designation, thorough economic analysis, and transparency throughout the process.

While national monuments can be merited on a limited basis and reasonably designed, we appreciate your efforts to prevent government overreach. By allowing the President to designate only "the smallest area *essential to ensure* the proper care and management of the objects to be protected"; by requiring restrictions on land rights to be very narrowly tailored to ensure the objects' protection; by disallowing repetitive designation proposals; and by requiring congressional approval, you are providing protection for western economies.

Livestock ranchers not only produce food and fiber to feed and clothe the nation and world, they also serve as stewards of our nation's public lands, dedicating immeasurable amounts of time and resources to range improvement projects each year. Maintaining open space and keeping ranchers on public lands ensures that our western landscapes are vibrant, healthy, and productive.

We thank you for your continued leadership on this matter and look forward to working with you and your staff to see that these crucial amendments are made to the Antiquities Act.

Sincerely,

Public Lands Council
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
American Sheep Industry Association

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association
Arizona Wool Growers Association
California Cattlemen's Association
California Public Lands Council
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Wool Growers Association
Idaho Cattle Association
Idaho Wool Growers Association
Montana Association of State Grazing Districts
Montana Public Lands Council
Montana Stock Growers Association
Montana Wool Growers Association
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Central Committee for State Grazing Boards
Nevada Wool Growers Association
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association
New Mexico Federal Lands Council
New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.
Northern New Mexico Stockmen's Association
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Sheep Growers Association
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association
Utah Cattlemen's Association
Utah Wool Growers Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association
Washington State Sheep Producers
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

Cc: Senators John Barrasso (R-Wyo.); John Ensign (R-Nev.); Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.); Orrin Hatch (R-Utah); Mike Lee (R-Utah); Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska); Jim Risch (R-Idaho); Pat Roberts (R-Kans.)