

**CHISPA – League of Conservation Voters • GreenLatinos
Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors • Hispanic Access Foundation
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities • Hispanic Federation • Latino Outdoors
League of United Latin American Citizens • MANA, A National Latina Organization • Mi Familia Vota •**

Thursday, September 22, 2016

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

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the undersigned national Latino organizations representing the interests of millions of Latinos nationwide, we urge you to use your executive authority under the Antiquities Act to permanently protect the greater Grand Canyon ecosystem, watershed, and associated tribal sacred and culturally significant sites.

As a community, we recognize the importance of protecting sites that reflect the rich tapestry of our nation’s multicultural heritage. We also recognize the need to preserve unique landscapes and watersheds for enjoyment by future generations of Americans and to increase the involvement of diverse communities – including Latinos – in the decision-making process on public lands across this country.

We are grateful for the steps you and your administration have taken to designate and preserve sites significant to Latinos including the Cesar Chavez National monument in Keene, CA, Browns Canyon National Monument in Chaffee County, CO, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in Northern Los Angeles County, CA, and elsewhere. The broader Latino community strongly supports these efforts. In a recent poll commissioned by GreenLatinos and Earthjustice, nearly 80 percent of Latino voters stated their belief that protecting our nation’s wildlife, public lands, and endangered species is extremely or very important.

The greater Grand Canyon region is sacred to Native Americans and treasured by all Americans, including Latinos. The Havasupai, Hualapai, Hopi, Navajo, Zuni, Paiute, and Yavapai tribes have a deep connection to these lands. Places like Red Butte, Yellowstone Spring and Antelope Spring remain an integral piece of their cultural identity. Protecting this region as a national monument will benefit Native American tribes in the region and bolster Arizona’s tourism-driven economy. Already, the Grand Canyon Watershed region generates \$787 million in state and local revenues and provides 104,000 direct jobs. The national monument designation will bring economic development to the area and benefit Latino and other families throughout the state.

We encourage you to further our shared vision of bringing diversity, equity and inclusion to the forefront of our nation’s conservation legacy by issuing a presidential proclamation designating the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

Sincerely,

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