To: President Donald J. Trump

CC: Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum,
New Mexico Congressional Delegation

**RE: Preserving New Mexico's National Monuments**

As state and local elected officials, Pueblo and Tribal leaders, and community leaders from New Mexico, we know firsthand that protected public lands sustain our communities and are deeply connected to our history, our culture, our community, and economy. We are writing to express our strong opposition to any potential elimination, boundary modification, or reduction in the type or level of protection for our state's cherished national monuments. National monuments are vital to our state's heritage, economy, and future.

New Mexico's national monuments represent the best of responsible public land management - balancing conservation with traditional uses, respecting private property rights, and enabling sustainable economic growth. As elected officials, Pueblo and Tribal leaders, and community leaders who value economic prosperity and our natural and cultural heritage, we urge your administration to maintain these monuments in their current form.

Tourism and outdoor recreation tied to our monuments generate substantial revenue annually for New Mexico's economy. Small businesses in rural communities surrounding these monuments have experienced growth since their designation. The outdoor recreation economy supports thousands of jobs across our state. Property values near these monuments have increased, benefiting local homeowners and expanding tax bases for essential services.

Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, for example, protects vital watersheds that sustain our agricultural communities, including traditional acequia systems that have supported local farming for centuries. Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks contains thousands of prehistoric archaeological sites and historically significant areas. Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks showcases unique geological formations that attract visitors from around the world. The health and vitality of our traditional Pueblo and Hispanic cultures are inextricably tied to the health of these landscapes and watersheds. Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks also honor traditional land uses by ensuring for continued hunting and grazing.

Altering these monuments would break faith with the communities that worked for decades to protect these landscapes through locally driven, consensus-based approaches.   These cherished protected areas play a crucial role in protecting our important wildlife habitat, migration corridors, recreation areas, water resources, and Indigenous cultural sites.

According to a  [2025 Conservation in the West Poll](https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewest/2025-poll-data/2025_SotR_StateFactSheets_NM.pdf), 89% of New Mexicans - including most Republicans – believe that existing national monument designations for the last decade should be kept in place.

We stand firmly against any modifications to the Antiquities Act, oppose any actions that would harm New Mexico's national monuments, and demand that public lands remain in public hands for the benefit of our communities and future generations.

Respectfully,