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Chairman Hastings' Statement on President Obama's César E. Chávez National Monument

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (WA-04) today released the following statement in response to President Obama's announcement to use presidential powers granted under the 1906 Antiquities Act to establish César E. Chávez National Monument:

"This is a prime example of President Obama prioritizing his political agenda over the best interests of the country. Designating Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz (Our Lady Queen of Peace) as a national monument is an unnecessary and egregious use of Presidential powers. President Obama should respect Congress' role to issue national monument, wilderness and other restrictive designations. Neither the House nor the Senate has introduced legislation to establish the César E. Chávez National Monument indicating the designation does not have widespread local support. Furthermore, the economic impacts of the designation remain unknown and the costs associated with running and maintaining this site must be considered in relation to our existing responsibilities."

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