

May 5, 2010

The Honorable Nick Rahall II  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: House Resolution 1254, Interior and National Monuments**

Dear Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Hastings:

The Public Lands Council (PLC) and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) strongly support H. Res. 1254, which would require the Secretary of Interior to disclose documents relating to possible monument designations. It is very important that land designations are developed with input from local stakeholders and state congressional delegations.

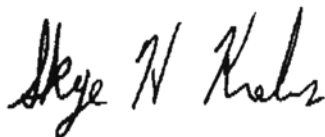
In mid-February, an internal Department of Interior document was revealed containing proposed monument designations adding up to nearly 13 million acres of land across 11 western states. Not only would taxpayer dollars be used to acquire some of the proposed land, but rural economies around the monuments would be harmed by land-use restrictions as a result of these designations.

The designation of monuments through the Antiquities Act diminishes the multiple-use management of our Nation's public lands. If not immediately, then over time, grazing is precluded from these lands. Livestock grazing is not only a valid range-management tool, it also provides a number of important environmental benefits, including fire suppression, noxious and invasive weed control, and the promotion of diverse wildlife habitat.

While PLC and NCBA recognize that there are unique historical sites located throughout the country, we do not believe the Antiquities Act was intended to lock up of millions of acres of public land to the detriment of livestock grazing and other multiple-use activities which contribute to healthy landscapes and robust rural economies. National monument designations should be done transparently and on a limited scale for only the most important sites.

We urge you to support H. Res. 1254 to insist on transparency and allow the public the opportunity to provide comment on any plan by the Administration to designate national monuments.

Sincerely,



Skye Krebs  
President  
Public Lands Council



Steve Foglesong  
President  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association