



March 25, 2014

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee,  
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Chairman Bishop:



As representatives of organizations promoting responsible motorized recreation we write in support of, and to thank you for introducing H.R 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act.



This common-sense legislation would apply the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to declarations of national monuments over 5,000 acres. To put it simply – the time for this reform is long overdue. Too often when there is no widespread local and Congressional support for designating public lands as wilderness or otherwise limiting multiple-use access, proponents seek to achieve their goal by calling for the Administration to unilaterally designate the area as a National Monument. It is time for this practice to stop. Any other major management changes to public lands require thorough review under NEPA, and Monument designations should as well.



The legislation would also prohibit Presidents from designating more than one National Monument per state each four-year term. This too is a common-sense reform which will help ensure that National Monument designations are made with the idea of protecting affected lands and local stakeholders instead of designations being made for political purposes.



Finally, the bill would require Congressional approval of any National Monument designations of less than 5,000 acres within 3 years. This gives broad latitude to the Administration to take action in emergency situations, while ensuring that the will of local stakeholders will ultimately carry the day.



Again, thank you for introducing and moving this important legislation and we look forward to working with you to see this bill enacted into law.

Sincerely,



Larry Smith  
Executive Director  
Americans for Responsible Recreational  
Access

Christine Jourdain  
Executive Director  
American Council of Snowmobile  
Associations



Wayne Allard  
Vice President  
Government Relations  
American Motorcyclist Association

Don Amador  
Western Representative  
BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.

Duane Taylor  
Director, Federal Affairs  
Motorcycle Industry Council

Russ Ehnes  
Executive Director  
National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation  
Council

Fred Wiley  
Executive Director  
Off-Road Business Association

Tom Yager  
Vice President  
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association

Stuart D. Gosswein  
Sr. Director  
Federal Government Affairs  
Specialty Equipment Market Association

Kathy Van Kleeck  
Senior Vice President  
Government Relations  
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America

Lori McCullough  
Executive Director  
Tread Lightly!