

May 30, 2023

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Cc. Secretary of the Department of Interior Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition

Dear President Biden:

As state legislators who represent a diversity of communities throughout Arizona, we know well the value of the Grand Canyon region and all that it supports in our state. We also understand that there are deep cultural ties and historic connections to the region from at least 12 Tribes, many of whom are part of the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition. We join these Indigenous leaders and offer our support for the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition's call to designate the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.

Designating the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument would protect approximately 1.1 million acres of federally-managed lands and would honor the Tribes' deep cultural ties to the Grand Canyon region. Protecting these lands would ensure that new toxic uranium mining is prohibited by making permanent the withdrawal of these lands from mining, helping to protect the region's waters.

In addition to the rich cultural ties and the history and stories of Tribal communities, these lands host abundant biological diversity, providing essential habitat for a multitude of plants and animals, including rare and endangered species such as the California condor. These lands also provide important recreational opportunities, including wildlife viewing, camping, hiking, hunting, and angling, which are essential to the region's economy.

We support the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition's request that you issue a proclamation to establish the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument. This will uplift and honor the Tribes' deep cultural ties to the region and better protect the natural, recreational, and scientific resources of the area.

Thank you for acting to protect the Grand Canyon region!

Sincerely,

Sen Mitzi Epstein  
Minority Leader  
LD 12, Chandler, AZ

Sen Juan Mendez  
Assistant Minority Leader  
LD 8, Tempe, AZ

Sen Christine Marsh  
LD 4, Phoenix, AZ

Sen Lela Alston  
Minority Caucus Chair  
LD 5, Phoenix, AZ

Sen Theresa Hatathlie  
LD 6, Coal Mine Mesa, AZ

Sen Catherine Miranda  
LD 11, Phoenix, AZ

Sen Priya Sundareshan  
LD 18, Tucson, AZ

Sen Rosanna Gabaldón  
LD 21, Sahuarita, AZ

Sen Eva Diaz  
LD 22, Tolleson, AZ

Sen Brian Fernandez  
LD 23, Yuma, AZ

Sen Anna Hernandez  
LD 24, Phoenix, AZ

Sen Flavio Bravo  
LD 26, Phoenix, AZ

Sen Sally Ann Gonzales  
LD 20, Tucson, AZ

Rep Andrés Cano  
Minority Leader  
LD 20, Tucson, AZ

Rep Lupe Contreras  
Assistant Minority Leader  
LD 22, Cashion, AZ

Rep Melody Hernandez  
Minority Whip  
LD 8, Tempe, AZ

Rep Marcelino Quiñones  
Minority Whip  
LD 11, Phoenix, AZ

Rep Lorena Austin  
LD 9, Mesa, AZ

Rep Patty Contreras  
LD 12, Ahwatukee, AZ

Rep Laura Terech  
LD 4, Scottsdale, AZ

Rep Athena Salman  
LD 8, Tempe, AZ

Rep Stacey Travers  
LD 12, Phoenix, AZ

Rep Jennifer Pawlik  
LD 13, Chandler, AZ

Rep Analise Ortiz  
LD 24, Phoenix, AZ

Rep Jennifer Longdon  
LD 5, Phoenix, AZ

Rep Nancy Gutierrez  
LD 18, Tucson, AZ

Rep Mariana Sandoval  
LD 23, Goodyear, AZ

Rep Judy Schwiebert  
LD 2, Glendale, AZ

Rep Cesar Aguilar  
LD 26, Phoenix, AZ

Rep Oscar De Los Santos  
LD 11, Phoenix, AZ

Rep Myron Tsosie  
LD 6, Chinle, AZ

Rep Leezah Sun  
LD 22, Phoenix, AZ

Rep Chris Mathis  
LD 18, Tucson, AZ

Rep Consuelo Hernandez  
LD 21, Tucson, AZ

Rep Amish Shah  
LD 5, Phoenix, AZ

Rep Keith Seaman  
LD 16, Casa Grande, AZ

Rep Stephanie Stahl-  
Hamilton  
LD 21, Tucson, AZ