



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 30, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Deb Haaland
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Secretary Thomas Vilsack
South Agriculture Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear President Biden, Secretary Haaland, and Secretary Vilsack;

As Governor of Arizona I am committed to preserving cultural and natural treasures throughout our state, and that is why I write to offer my support for the designation of the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.

The Grand Canyon region is known as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, but here in Arizona we know it for so much more. First, it is a culturally sacred place stewarded by Indigenous Peoples for centuries.

Second, the Grand Canyon region is a significant contributor to our state's economy. According to a recent National Park Service report, in 2021 4.5 million people visited Grand Canyon National Park and spent an estimated \$710 million in park gateway regions alone, which supported over 9,300 jobs.

The Grand Canyon region is a place where millions hike, hunt, fish, pray, meditate, camp, and enjoy the natural world. In addition to tribal voices, my office has heard from people across the political spectrum, including sporting groups, faith leaders, outdoor recreation businesses, conservation groups and others from a broad array of interests that support this monument designation.

Today, I add my voice to those asking you to use the Antiquities Act authority to safeguard this irreplaceable landscape.

Arizona is known as "The Grand Canyon State," and I can think of no better use of the Antiquities Act than to protect our state's namesake treasure. This designation will safeguard one of our most important water supplies, continue to support strong economic activity in communities across our state, and preserve a cultural and natural treasure for future generations. I proudly stand with the many tribes calling for this critical protection of the Grand Canyon.

Finally, I request clarification in the process of designating this monument, that the Arizona Game and Fish Department will retain its existing authority related to the management, control, and regulation of fish and wildlife so that this authority is clearly delineated prior to the years-long formation of a monument management plan.

Sincerely,

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona