

**American Hiking Society** ◊ **American Rivers** ◊ **American Society of Landscape Architects**  
**Arizona Wildlife Federation** ◊ **Arizona Wilderness Coalition** ◊ **Arizona Zoological Society** ◊  
**California Wilderness Coalition** ◊ **Campaign for America's Wilderness**  
**Center for Biological Diversity** ◊ **Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)**  
**Citizens Action Committee for Tule Springs (CACTuS)**  
**Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection** ◊ **Defenders of Wildlife** ◊ **Earthjustice**  
**Environmental Defense** ◊ **Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument**  
**Friends of the Earth** ◊ **Friends of Gold Butte** ◊ **Friends of Ironwood Forest**  
**Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument** ◊ **Friends of Sloan** ◊ **Grand Canyon Trust**  
**Grand Canyon Wildlands Council** ◊ **Grand Staircase Escalante Partners**  
**Idaho Conservation League** ◊ **Idaho Wildlife Federation** ◊ **Montana Wilderness Association**  
**Montana Wildlife Federation** ◊ **National Trust for Historic Preservation**  
**National Wildlife Federation** ◊ **Nevada Wildlife Federation** ◊ **New Mexico Wilderness Alliance**  
**New Mexico Wildlife Federation** ◊ **Oregon Natural Desert Association**  
**Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)** ◊ **Partnership for the National Trails System**  
**Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)**  
**Republicans for Environmental Protection (REP)** ◊ **Rincon Institute**  
**San Juan Citizens Alliance** ◊ **Sierra Club** ◊ **Soda Mountain Wilderness Council**  
**Sonoran Institute** ◊ **Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance** ◊ **Tuleyome**  
**US PIRG** ◊ **The Wilderness Society**

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Chairman  
House National Parks, Forests and Public  
Lands Subcommittee  
1333 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member  
House National Parks, Forests and Public  
Lands Subcommittee  
1333 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

May 29, 2007

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Congressman Bishop:

On behalf of our 47 national and regional organizations and our many members, we write in support of The National Landscape Conservation System Act, H.R. 2016.

As you know, the 26-million-acre National Landscape Conservation System was established by the Secretary of the Interior to recognize and protect the outstanding lands and waters managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Conservation System is comprised of BLM lands and waters designated for conservation by Congress or the President: National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and other congressionally designated BLM conservation areas. The System, which comprises 10 percent of BLM-managed lands, protects the BLM's crown jewels, from Montana's Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument to Colorado's Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans each year enjoy these nationally significant landscapes, through recreation such as hunting, river rafting and hiking, as well as outdoor education for local schools, scientific research on valuable paleontological and archaeological resources, and more. For example, hikers, ecologists and other visitors to Oregon's biologically diverse Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument enjoy an unparalleled diversity of butterflies, animal species, unique fish and mollusks, and rare plants.

The National Landscape Conservation System is a network of some of the last places where visitors can experience the history and wild beauty of the American West. Although the most recent Democratic and Republican administrations have both supported the System administratively, it lacks statutory recognition—keeping the great recreational, natural and scientific resources of the Conservation System hidden from many Americans who stand to benefit from them. By enacting codifying legislation, Congress will ensure the System's permanence and an enduring legacy of the West's natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

In conclusion, enactment of H.R. 2016 will permanently establish perhaps the last great American system of protected lands, and we hope the Committee will favorably report this important piece of public lands legislation.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Miller, Ph.D., President  
American Hiking Society

Rebecca R. Wodder, President  
American Rivers

Nancy Somerville, Executive Vice  
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Jeff Williamson, CEO/President  
Arizona Zoological Society

Mary L. Wells, Executive Director  
California Wilderness Coalition

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Campaign for America's Wilderness

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Center for Biological Diversity

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(CIEL)

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Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

Rodger Schlickeisen, President  
Defenders of Wildlife

Vawter Parker, Executive Director  
Earthjustice

Fred Krupp, President  
Environmental Defense

Dr. Peter Welsh, President  
Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument

Brent Blackwelder, President  
Friends of the Earth

Nancy Hall, President  
Friends of Gold Butte

Murray Bolesta, President  
Friends of Ironwood Forest

Dennis Tighe, President  
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument

Bill James, President  
Friends of Sloan

Bill Hedden, Executive Director  
Grand Canyon Trust

Kelly Burke, Executive Director  
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council

Mike Satter, President  
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners

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J. Kent Marlor, PhD, President  
Idaho Wildlife Federation

Craig Sharpe, Executive Director.  
Montana Wildlife Federation

Richard Moe, President  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Larry Schweiger, President & CEO  
National Wildlife Federation

Kevin Cabble, President  
Nevada Wildlife Federation

Stephen Capra, Executive Director  
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

Kent Salazar, President  
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Bill Marlett, Executive Director  
Oregon Natural Desert Association

Frank Hugelmeyer, President  
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)

Gary Werner, Executive Director  
Partnership for the National Trails System

Jeff Ruch, Executive Director  
Public Employees for Environmental  
Responsibility (PEER)

Martha Marks, President  
Republicans for Environmental Protection

Annie Wallace, Executive Director  
Rincon Institute

Mark Pearson, Executive Director  
San Juan Citizens Alliance

Carl Pope, Executive Director  
Sierra Club

Dave Willis, Chair  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council

Luther Propst, Executive Director  
Sonoran Institute

Scott Groene, Executive Director  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Bob Schneider, President  
Tuleyome

Margie Alt, Executive Director  
US PIRG

William H. Meadows, President  
The Wilderness Society

Cc: Congressman Nick J. Rahall, Chair, House Natural Resources Committee  
Congressman Don Young, Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee  
Members of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee