**To**: naturalresources@mail.house.gov

**Subject**: Federal Lands Subcommittee Consideration of H.R. 2423: Washington County, Utah, Public Lands Management Implementation Act

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Chairman, Federal Lands Subcommittee, House Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
Ranking Member, Federal Lands Subcommittee, House Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

HR 2423 undermines the legislative provisions in public law 111-11, also known as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Lands Bill), which established the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA) to protect tortoise habitat and sensitive ecosystem in Washington County, Utah.  The proposed bill designates a four-lane highway through the NCA, circumventing all environmental and federal regulations protecting this area, subverting Congress' basic intent stated in the 2009 Lands Bill.

Proponents of this bill claim the highway was always intended to be accommodated, but it is clear from this statement by Utah Senator Bob Bennett that it was neither intended nor promised: “Congressman Matheson and I have made significant changes to the previous proposal. We have permanently protected large amounts of biologically significant public land in Washington County, including additional wilderness and a new national conservation area.We have removed the corridor designationsfor the Lake Powell Pipeline Corridor andthe Northern Corridor that bisected the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve” (underline added; from p.8, pertaining to the 2008 Washington County Growth & Conservation Act (now part of the Lands Bill) from the U.S. Senate hearing record of April 22, 2008 on S.2834).

The citizens of Washington County value these lands.  We request that you continue the protections for the congressionally-designated Red Cliffs National Conservation Area and not advance this bill.

Sincerely,
(your name and address)