

**July 8, 2017**

**To:** Eric Clarke eric.clarke@washco.utha.gov

 Sen. Evan Vickers (R-District 28) evickers@le.utah.gov

**Cc:** Commissioner Dean Cox dean.cox@washco.utah.gov

Commissioner Vic Iverson victor.iverson@washco.utah.gov

Commissioner Zach Renstrom zach.renstrom@washco.utah.gov

 Sen. Don Ipson (R-District 29) dipson@le.utha.gov

 Rep. Jon Stanard (R-District 62) jstanard@le.utah.gov

Rep. Brad Last (R-District71) blast@le.utah.gov

Rep. John Westwood (R-District 72) jwestwood@le.utah.gov

Rep Lowry Snow (R-District 74) lsnow @le.utah.gov

Rep. Walt Brooks (R-District 75) wbrooks@le.utah.gov

**Subject: Position on Bears Ears National Monument**

**References:**

1. Spectrum Op-Ed by Eric Clarke dated 6/24/17, [Shrink it: Bears Ears Monument is Wrong for Utah](http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/2017/06/23/shrink-it-bears-ears-monument-wrong-utah/419073001/)
2. Spectrum Op-Ed by Eric Vickers dated 6/26/17, [Zinke takes right approach with Bears Ears](http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/2017/06/25/zinke-takes-right-approach-bears-ears/416140001/)

Dear Mr. Clarke and Sen. Vickers,

Thank you for submitting the referenced Op-Eds describing the reasons you think the monument designation should be changed. We invite you to engage in a respectful discussion about the issues you raised. We are a group of ordinary citizens in southwest Utah that formed 11 years ago in response to a lack of public engagement and fact-finding opportunities involving some of our area’s important issues: our public lands, water, air and climate quality, and how we grow. We are an independent group not influenced by outside forces, but we have influence on regional and national conservation organizations addressing issues in Utah by virtue of our constituency.

We have submitted an Op-Ed to The Spectrum in response which addresses the main point raised in each of your Op-Eds and relates our position on them. This is done in the spirit of seeking to understand the facts and ideology underlying your position, and sharing ours with you. Please let us know if and when you can meet with us. Our representatives cc’d on this letter are welcome to join. We view this as way our elected officials can work with their constituents to determine facts and derive well-supported positions.

Offered in the spirit of working together to find understanding and solutions,

Tom Butine

Board President, Conserve Southwest Utah

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