

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-1221.01 Esther van Mourik x4215

HR17-1011

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pettersen and McLachlan,

House Committees

HOUSE RESOLUTION 17-1011

101 **CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR COLORADO'S NATIONAL MONUMENTS.**

1 WHEREAS, The provisions of 54 U.S.C. sections 320301 to
2 320303, commonly referred to as the "Antiquities Act", authorize the
3 President of the United States to designate as national monuments by
4 public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric
5 structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are
6 situated on public land; and

7 WHEREAS, The Antiquities Act, signed into law in 1906
8 concurrently with the designation of Mesa Verde National Park in
9 Colorado, has been used judiciously in Colorado to protect cherished
10 heritage and places such as the Great Sand Dunes, Dinosaur National
11 Monument, Colorado National Monument, and Florissant Fossil Beds
12 National Monument; and

13 WHEREAS, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument protects
14 over 6,000 archaeological sites, the greatest known density of cultural
15 sites in the nation, and vouchsafes an irreplaceable repository of Native
16 American history set in scenic red rock canyons; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, All recent designations were the culminations of
2 extensive public process, including stakeholder involvement, public
3 meetings and tours, and introduced bipartisan legislation in Congress; and

4 WHEREAS, Colorado's national monuments play an important
5 role in protecting our natural and cultural resources, supporting local and
6 regional economies, and guaranteeing our world-renowned outdoor
7 quality of life; and

8 WHEREAS, Former President of the United States Theodore
9 Roosevelt first used the Antiquities Act in 1906 and over the last 111
10 years, 16 former presidents, of whom 8 were Republicans and 8 were
11 Democrats, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the natural, cultural,
12 and historic heritage of the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Many national monuments, including the Grand
14 Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, the Birmingham Civil Rights National
15 Monument, and the Stonewall Inn, reflect the rich cultural heritage of
16 tribal communities, minority communities, and communities of color, are
17 some of the most important public lands of the United States, and are
18 critical to telling a more inclusive and complete history of our nation; and

19 WHEREAS, The designation of national monuments provides
20 additional protections for public lands that are held in trust for all
21 Americans, and the management of national monuments is guided by
22 plans developed in cooperation with state, local, and tribal governments,
23 members of the public, and other stakeholders; and

24 WHEREAS, It has been argued that designating national
25 monuments prevents continued economic growth, but trends in key
26 economic indicators such as population, employment, personal income,
27 and per capita income either continued or improved in each of the regions
28 surrounding designated national monuments; and

29 WHEREAS, In fact, a recent report by the National Park Service
30 indicates that Dinosaur National Monument created more than \$20
31 million in economic benefits to nearby communities in 2016; and

32 WHEREAS, Recent polls indicate that approximately 83% of the
33 residents of Colorado support keeping in place protections for national
34 monuments such as Canyons of the Ancients National Monument; and

1 WHEREAS, The President of the United States, in an Executive
2 Order signed on April 26, 2017, is undertaking a review of all national
3 monuments designated since 1996 that exceed 100,000 acres in size or
4 otherwise may be perceived to have lacked sufficient public input and
5 making recommendations, which includes Colorado's Canyons of the
6 Ancients National Monument, to possibly either diminish in size or
7 revoke protections for these same monuments; now, therefore,

8 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first*
9 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

10 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, stand
11 in support of the Antiquities Act and all national monuments in Colorado,
12 and request that:

13 (1) All national monuments in Colorado are important to the
14 State's interests and none should be revoked nor diminished;

15 (2) The Antiquities Act is an important tool to protect special
16 natural, cultural, and historic resources on public lands and should be
17 maintained; and

18 (3) Colorado's Governor and congressional delegation should
19 similarly affirm support for Colorado's national monuments and the
20 Antiquities Act.

21 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Resolution be sent to
22 the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, each
23 member of Colorado's congressional delegation, and Governor John
24 Hickenlooper.