



HOUSE RESOLUTION 17-1011

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pettersen and McLachlan, Bridges, Buckner, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Hamner, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Kennedy, Lebsock, Lontine, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Pabon, Rosenthal, Salazar, Valdez, Weissman, Winter, Young, Duran.

CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR COLORADO'S NATIONAL MONUMENTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES