



February 7, 2013

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
United States House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Representative Foxx:

As representatives of national motorized recreation organizations we write in support of H.R. 382, the Preserve Land Freedom for Americans Act.

H.R. 382 would require state approval before any President could move forward with a National Monument designation. As it stands, the Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President the authority to designate "...historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments." The Antiquities Act also holds that national monuments should be "...confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected..." yet Presidents of both parties have, in our view, inappropriately designated enormous swaths of public lands as national monuments. One particularly egregious example was the designation of nearly 2 million acres of public land as the Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument in Utah.

It is no secret that those most affected by land use decisions are those who live, recreate and make their livelihoods on or near the public lands in question. When the Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument was designated, the Governor of Utah and other key officials were given only 24 hours of notice and the people of Utah were left without a voice on how the lands in their state would be managed. Some environmental organizations in Utah, New Mexico and other states are calling on the President to forsake ongoing administrative or legislative processes at the local level in favor of unilateral action that would satisfy a narrow group of stakeholders. Once enacted, your legislation would ensure that this sort of unilateral action is no longer possible.

Too often when widespread local and Congressional support to designate public lands as wilderness cannot be established, wilderness proponents turn to a strategy of calling for the President to achieve similar goals by administratively designating the area as a National Monument. It is time for this practice to stop. As a result we wholeheartedly support H.R. 382 and thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Larry Smith  
Executive Director  
Americans for Responsible Recreational  
Access

Christine Jourdain  
Executive Director  
American Council of Snowmobile  
Associations



Sincerely,



Wayne Allard  
Vice President  
Government Relations  
American Motorcyclist Association



Greg Mumm  
Executive Director  
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Duane Taylor  
Director, Federal Affairs  
Motorcycle Industry Council



Russ Ehnes  
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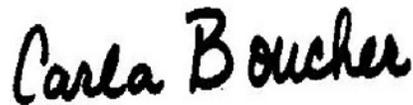
Fred Wiley  
Executive Director  
Off-Road Business Association



Paul Vitrano  
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Kathy Van Kleeck  
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Carla Boucher  
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