

December 15, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear President Obama:

As outdoor industry companies that depend on the wild landscapes where our customers recreate, we urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Greater Grand Canyon watershed. This is the Grand Canyon, a place renowned and revered by people who have lived along its canyon walls for centuries and by the millions who travel to experience this, the crown jewel of our national parks. This magnificent landscape deserves protection for its cultural significance, for its importance as a clean water source, and for its outstanding recreation value that directly benefit communities in the region and beyond.

The mighty Colorado River, which carved the Grand Canyon, provides clean water to tribal and non-tribal communities and quenches the thirst of more than 40 million people across the American West. However, mounting threats from toxic uranium mining threaten freshwater resources and the communities who rely on the Colorado River downstream. We urge you to put a permanent stop to uranium mine pollution in the Grand Canyon. Today, contaminated water from an abandoned uranium mine on its south rim is poisoning a spring-fed creek deep within the Grand Canyon. A national monument proclamation designation will prevent this kind of tragedy from ever happening again.

Protected public lands form the bedrock of our industry. Simply put, safeguarding these public lands and waters is crucial to our economy, health and communities. Outdoor recreation and tourism means big business in this country. Each year, the outdoor industry supports more than six million American jobs, generates \$646 billion in direct consumer spending and contributes \$80 billion in federal, state and local taxes. In Arizona alone, outdoor recreation generates \$10.6 billion in consumer spending, 104,000 jobs, \$3.3 billion in wages and salaries and \$787 million in state and local tax revenue. In 2015, 5.5 million people visited Grand Canyon National Park, spending \$584 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 8,897 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$813 million. While many other sectors declined during the recession, the outdoor industry continues to shine bright in our economy.

This is the Grand Canyon. It is sacred to Native Americans and treasured by all Americans. What we allow to happen here will determine what happens across the American West. If we are not willing to protect the Grand Canyon, then what great landscape are we willing to protect in this nation? Now, more than ever, it's time to step up and fight to protect what is ours—and let us start with the Grand Canyon.

We urge you to permanently protect the public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park as the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, safeguarding this national treasure for us today, and for future generations.

Sincerely, the undersigned,



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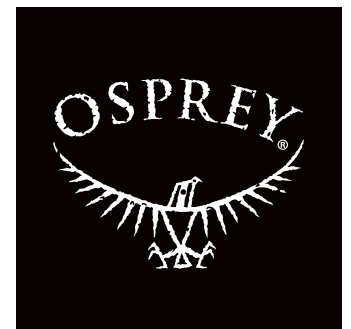
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