

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 3, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Ensuring Effective Coordination with State and Local Governments

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request your assistance on an important issue to our constituents and Americans throughout the country: ensuring effective coordination with state and local governments on proposed federal actions affecting land and natural resource use and development.

To help ensure that federal agencies closely coordinate land use planning and other regulatory actions with states and local governments, we have prepared a draft Executive Order (EO), a draft memorandum and three draft policies for your consideration. These documents seek to ensure state and local governments are involved in important decisions made by federal agencies that affect their livelihoods and local planning decisions.

The provisions of the EO and policies are supported by multiple federal laws and agency regulations. However, no administration has implemented coordination to date. The EO and accompanying policies will improve decision making by allowing state and local governments to provide meaningful input to federal agencies and ensure important decisions are made in conjunction with local stakeholders.

Unfortunately, under prior administrations, federal departments and agencies often disregarded the views of local officials when creating management policies that had broad sweeping impacts. To be blunt, the prevailing attitude was often "Washington knows best." This approach that ignores the expertise of local governments is especially problematic in Western states, where vast amounts of land are federally owned and controlled. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service (CRS), the total federal estate exceeds more than 635 million acres. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 247.3 million acres and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) manages 192.9 million acres. More than 150 national monuments comprise another 840.4 million acres.

In your recent EO directing the review of national monument designations under the Antiquities Act, issued on April 26, 2017, you specifically noted that such designations have "a substantial impact on the management of federal lands and the use and enjoyment of neighboring lands." You also explained that monument designations that take place without proper coordination with state and local officials can "create barriers to achieving energy independence, restrict public access to and use of federal lands, burden state and local governments and otherwise curtail economic growth."

The way federal land and resources are managed dramatically impact state and local governments, in addition to their citizens and economies. In many rural areas, the ability to use federal land and resources are critical components of the local economy. Yet, federal agencies have routinely ignored the land-use plans, programs and policies of local stakeholders when making important land and resource planning decisions. Local shareholders and their duly elected officials, who live and work in the area, are often in a much better position to understand local conditions and the needs of their citizens.

Basic principles of federalism mandate that federal agencies take into account the policies and programs of state and local governments prior to making decisions that significantly impact their citizens and livelihoods. Effective coordination, as the EO and policies require, will result in better land and resource planning decisions, reduce disputes and strengthen the overall planning process.

We would be pleased to discuss the enclosed draft EO and policies with you and your staff should you have any questions or like additional information.

As always, we ask that this request be handled in strict accordance with existing rules, regulations and ethical guidelines. We look forward to your timely response.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



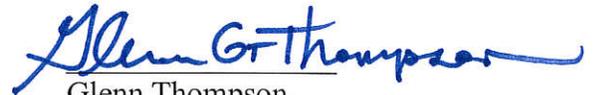
Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



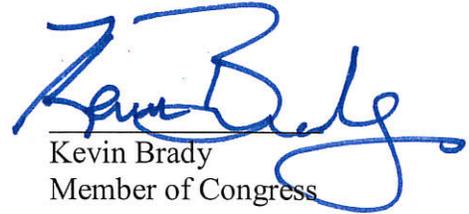
Scott Tipton
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Brian Babin
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Tom McClintock
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Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Cc: Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke
Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue

Enclosures: [Draft Executive Order](#)
[Draft Presidential Memorandum](#)
[Draft Policy Coordination of Inventory Processes with State and Local Governments](#)
[Draft Policy Coordinating the Planning Process with State and Local Governments](#)
[Draft Policy Coordinating of Management Activities with State and Local Governments](#)