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Words and Photographs by Stephen Trimble

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Members of Congress:

On behalf of the millions of Americans who comprise our members and supporters, including scientists, anglers, ranchers, hunters, outfitters, naturalists, outdoor enthusiasts, business owners, paddlers, hikers, and wildlife watchers, we write to express our enthusiastic support for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, which will be introduced by Senator Dick Durbin and Rep. Melanie Stansbury in the 119th Congress. We urge you to become a cosponsor of this legislation and support the protection of Utah's iconic wilderness quality landscapes.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will permanently protect some of the most magnificent lands of our nation, major sections of the illegally-repealed Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bears Ears National Monument, and the critical wildlands adjacent to and surrounding Utah's five national parks, including Zion, Arches, Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef. In total, the bill would preserve for posterity more than 8 million acres of wilderness-quality public lands, all owned by the American people under the auspices of the Bureau of Land Management and unique to the world. These lands encompass a great diversity of habitats, from undulating expanses of sand dunes to towering sandstone monoliths and cool desert oases. The Colorado River system—the very lifeblood of the Western U.S.—winds its way through the wildest parts of the landscape on its journey to the Grand Canyon and beyond.

Wilderness designation is the ultimate protection for all these rare and fragile resources. But our members throughout the country also treasure these places for the many opportunities they offer for primitive recreation, like hunting, fishing, boating, horseback riding, hiking, camping, wildlife-viewing, and sight-seeing. All of these activities would be allowed to continue under America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and would help support the economies of nearby communities.

Sadly, without the Red Rock bill's protection, the pristine character of these wildlands continues to be threatened by mining, oil & gas development, proposed tar sands development and inappropriate off-road vehicle use. Protecting the lands in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act would restore a critical balance to land management in the region, allowing industrial and off-road vehicle use to continue elsewhere in Utah, while preserving the wildest places that merit protection but remain seriously threatened.

As we face the future of climate change, protection of the last wild places is even more essential to ensure ecosystem durability and species adaptation. Utah's wildlands are home to a startling array of sensitive wildlife, including two dozen endangered or sensitive species such as the Gila monster, desert tortoise, bald eagle, and peregrine falcon. Leading scientists suggest preserving large refugia will allow threatened species such as these to adapt and survive. A human tale exists here as well: these lands contain some of the most archaeological and culturally valuable resources in the country, such as petroglyphs and pictographs dating as far back as 12,000 years. While these treasures have remained largely preserved by the area's remoteness, they face increasing risk from industrial activity and off-road vehicles and vandals.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will protect the irreplaceable and spectacular wild public lands of Utah that are the natural heritage and birthright of all Americans. We urge you to join with us to protect America's iconic red rock landscapes for generations to come. To sign on as an cosponsor, please contact Kevin Lefeber in Sen. Durbin's office at 202-224-2152 or at kevin_lefeber@durbin.senate.gov or Kaila Hood in Rep. Stansbury's office by phone at 202-225-6316 or by email at kaila.hood@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

The Utah Wilderness Coalition
ProtectWildUtah.org



Center for Biological Diversity	AZ
Rupestrian CyberServices	AZ
Wildland Trekking Company	AZ
Brown Bag Farms	CA
Californians for Western Wilderness	CA
The Climate Reality Project: California Coalition	CA
Desert Tortoise Council	CA
Latino Outdoors	CA
Natural Resources Defense Council	CA
San Diego Chapter of the Climate Reality Project	CA
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy	CA
Coloradoan for Utah Wilderness (ColorUWild)	CO
Desert Ecosystems Analysis and Restoration	CO
Glenn Randall Writing and Photography	CO
Grand Valley Audubon Society	CO
Great Old Broads for Wilderness	CO
Rig to Flip	CO
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council	CO

Wild Earth Guardians	CO
Creation Justice Ministries	DC
Earthworks	DC
GreenLatinos	DC
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)	DC
Sierra Club	DC
Hawaii Audubon Society	HI
Alliance for the Wild Rockies	ID
Western Watersheds Project	ID
Decatur Audubon Society	IL
Elgin Green Groups	IL
First United Methodist of LaGrange (IL) Environmental Justice Committee	IL
Illinois Clergy & Laity for Utah Wilderness	IL
Illinois Task Force for Utah Wilderness	IL
Midwest SOARRING	IL
Northwest Illinois Audubon Society	IL
Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin	IL
Burroughs Audubon Society	KS
J Groene Construction	KS
Massachusetts Audubon Society	MA
Massachusetts Friends of Redrock Wilderness	MA
Maryland Ornithological Society	MD
Mainers for Utah Wilderness	ME
RESTORE: The North Woods	ME
Jackson Audubon Society	MI
Michigan Friends for Red Rock Wilderness	MI
Petoskey Audubon Club	MI
Minnesota Friends for Utah Wilderness	MN

Western Values Project	MT
American Whitewater	NC
Earthsong Photography	NC
Presbyterians for Earth Care	NC
New Mexico Friends of Utah Wilderness	NM
Nuestra Tierra	NM
Stone Forest Inc	NM
William Stone Photography	NM
Bird and Hike	NV
Friends of Nevada Wilderness	NV
Get Outdoors Nevada	NV
Nevadans for Utah Wilderness	NV
Patagonia	NV
Carol Montgomery Drake CPA PLLC	NY
JSA Sustainable Wealth Management	NY
New Yorkers for Utah Wilderness	NY
Ohio Friends for Utah Wilderness	OH
The Bee Collective	OH
350 PDX	OR
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs	OR
Happy Mountain Kombucha	OR
Hudson Henry Photography	OR
Lane County Audubon Society	OR
Mountain Shop	OR
Oregon Wild	OR
Oregonians for Wild Utah	OR
Salem Audubon Society	OR
Pennsylvania Friends of Utah Wilderness	PA

Aldous and Associates	UT
Alliance for Better Utah	UT
Alta Lodge	UT
Bret Webster Images	UT
Bridgerland Audubon Society	UT
BYU Earth Stewardship	UT
Canyon Country Rising Tide	UT
Cathedral Church of St. Mark (Episcopal SLC)	UT
Clayhaus Photography	UT
Dabney & Dabney PLLC	UT
EcoFlight	UT
Elders Rising	UT
Environmental Ministry First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City	UT
Episcopal Diocese of Utah	UT
Equality Utah	UT
FOUNTAINavm	UT
Fisher Brewing Company	UT
Glen Canyon Institute	UT
Great Basin Coffee	UT
Great Salt Lake Audubon	UT
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Imlay Canyon Gear	UT
James Kay Photography	UT
Jinks Dabney LLC	UT
Latinxs United for Change and Activism (LUChA)	UT
League of Women Voters of Utah	UT
LULAC Young Adult Quetzalcoatl 44016 Council	UT

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Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance	UT
MOSAIC Inter-Faith Ministries	UT
Mountain West Cider	UT
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán (MEChA) de University of Utah	UT
Save Our Canyons	UT
Save Our Great Salt Lake	UT
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance	UT
Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources-USU	UT
Superbloom Coffee Roasters	UT
Taproot Soda	UT
UPLIFT	UT
Utah Moms for Clean Air	UT
Utah Physicians for Healthy Environment	UT
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Utah Society for Environmental Education	UT
Utah Tar Sands Resistance	UT
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Words and Photographs by Stephen Trimble	UT
Kettle Range Conservation Group	WA
Kishwaukee College Green Team	WA
Peddler Brewing	WA
Washington Friends of Wild Utah	WA
Rock County Progressives	WI
Wisconsin Friends for Utah Wilderness	WI

Upper Green River Alliance

WY