

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 14, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

We write to you as Members of the Nevada delegation to express our concerns with Secretarial Order 3418 and its potential impact on our public lands. Specifically, we are calling attention to Section 4c which initiated a 15-day review of national monuments and mineral withdrawals to assess any impediments they may pose to “unleash[ing] America’s affordable and reliable energy and natural resources”.

In a recent article titled “[Interior Chief Vows to Boost Domestic Energy, Protect Lands](#),” you were quoted as offering the following assurance to outdoor advocates regarding the balance between energy production and conservation: “I want everybody here to know it’s not one or the other... We can do both of those, and we can protect our most sacred places.” We agree, and intend to hold you and your department to this essential pledge, particularly when it comes to preserving our national monuments. We urge the administration to refrain from attempts to unilaterally alter lands with existing national monument designations, as we’ve seen previously at Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante.

In Nevada, public lands are part of the fabric of who we are and, in many instances, signify our solemn commitment to honoring the cultural heritage and traditions of Indigenous communities who have and continue to call these lands home. That is why we have been proud to work with these communities to designate Basin & Range, Gold Butte, and Avi Kwa Ame as national monuments in recent years.

Public lands are also essential for our economy and livelihoods. The thriving clean energy industry has created more than 33,000 jobs in the State, according to a recent report.¹ Furthermore, our outdoor recreation activities on federal public lands contributed an approximate \$8 billion value-add to our State, along with a 5.8% increase in employment tied to the industry, which was the second largest increase in the country.²

Finally, these designations are critical to protect at-risk habitats, ecosystems, and resources. This is especially true in the West where record drought and extreme heat threaten our ability to conserve water for communities.

¹ https://cleanjobsamerica.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/E2-2023-Clean-Jobs-America-Report_September-14-2023-2.pdf

² <https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/outdoor-recreation>

Decisions to protect these treasured lands were not made on a whim. They were the result of intense engagements with tribes, community leaders, and local businesses. Concerted efforts were made with each monument designation to engage with all impacted parties and to resolve land-use conflicts.

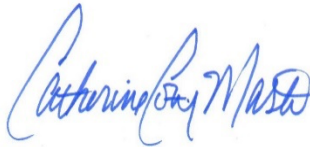
While Congress reserves the authority to revoke or adjust national monuments, any future action by your department should be a result of the same level of outreach and public engagement, similar to the commitment you made to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Ranking Member Heinrich during your confirmation process.

With over 85% of Nevada land being federally managed, it has always been of the utmost importance for our delegation to have a good working relationship with the Secretary of Interior. But make no mistake: We will resist any efforts to come after our preserved lands and protected spaces.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus
United States House of
Representatives



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate



Steven Horsford
United States House of Representatives



Susie Lee
United States House of Representatives