

October 30, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Support for Designating the Chuckwalla National Monument and Protecting Lands Adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to strongly express our support for the designation of the Chuckwalla National Monument on behalf of the signatories below representing organizations and businesses whose work encourages access to the outdoors. California desert public lands, and their wealth of biodiversity are a national treasure and represent important values that are central to the well-being of countless individuals. This designation would help ensure more equitable access to nature for local communities.

The beauty of California's desert region attracts millions of visitors each year. The proposed monument would include places that are highly visited by a wide array of people from near and far, including residents of locales ranging from the Eastern Coachella Valley to Blythe. These public lands are cherished by many for the incredible outdoor recreation opportunities they offer, like hiking, camping, stargazing, and off-highway vehicle touring on designated routes.

Studies have shown that there are many physical and psychological wellness benefits in being outdoors and in nature. However, according to a recent report from the Hispanic Access Foundation, people of color, low-income communities, and families with children are most likely to be deprived of the benefits that nature provides. A national monument adjacent to the underserved communities in the Coachella Valley would help alleviate the gap people of color face in accessing wild spaces.

The proposed Chuckwalla National Monument would also significantly contribute to federal and state goals to protect 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030, and honor the sovereignty of Tribal Nations by introducing methods for willing Tribes to steward their homelands with federal agencies.

We want to thank you for your leadership over the years in protecting our nation's federal public lands, especially those in the California desert. Please continue that leadership by using your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate the Chuckwalla National Monument and protect lands adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park today. Our children, grandchildren, and future generations will be extremely grateful if you do.

Sincerely,

Michael Rosenkrantz
Director, SoCal Adaptive Sports

Ethan Peck
Co-Owner, Joshua Tree Adventures LLC

Jazzari Taylor
Policy Advocate, Latino Outdoors

Arch McCullough
President, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Mojave Desert Chapter

Camila Bautista
Salton Sea and Desert Program Manager, Audubon California

Belén Bernal
Executive Director, Nature for All

Tammy Martin
Executive Director, Friends of Desert Mountains

Ben McCue
Executive Director, Outdoor Outreach

Katie Hawkins
California Program Director, Outdoor Alliance

Olani LaBeaud
Public Policy & Advocacy Associate, BLU Educational Foundation

Jack Thompson
Desert Regional Director, The Wildlands Conservancy

Sendy Hernández Orellana Barrows
Conservation Program Manager, Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM)

Colin Bowers
Co-Founder, CactusToCloud Institute

Steve Messer
President, California Mountain Biking Association

Katie Goodwin
Western Regional Director, Access Fund

Sara Husby
Executive Director, Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Shi-Lynn Campbell
Associate Editor, Melanin Base Camp

Kelly Herbinson
Executive Director, Mojave Desert Land Trust

Christian Rodriguez Ceja
Senior Community Associate, Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI)

Mark Green
Executive Director, CalWild

Patricia Barahona
CEO, Youth Leadership Institute

Seth Zaharias & Sabra Purdy
Co-Owners, Cliffhanger Guides

Dan Silver
Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League

Bill Mott
Executive Director, The Ocean Project

Chance Cutrano
Director of Programs, Resource Renewal Institute

Jason Flores
Ecological Field Tech, NEON

Leticia Olvera Arechar
Supervisor, El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center

Francesca Governali
Government Affairs Advocate, League of Conservation Voters

Katie Barrows
Co-Treasurer, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Riverside-San Bernardino Chapter

Olivia Juarez
Public Land Program Director, GreenLatinos

Charles Thomas
Executive Director, Outward Bound Adventures

Moises Cisneros
Senior Campaign Organizer, Sierra Club

Nadine Lamberski
Chief Conservation Officer, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Officer

Claire Schlotterbeck
Executive Director, Hills for Everyone

Brian Elliot
Conservation Director, Pomona Valley Audubon

Jane Garrison
Executive Director, Oswit Land Trust

Wendy Schneider
Executive Director, Friends of the Inyo

Kimberly Renee
President & CEO, Red Jeep Tours by Desert Adventures

Keith Shattenkirk
Program Officer, Patagonia

Tara Thorton
Director of Institutional Engagement, Endangered Species Coalition

Evan Trubee
Owner, Big Wheel Tours

Scott Connelly
Great Outdoors Palm Springs

Richard Dachman
President, Great Outdoors California, Inc

Richard Balocco
President/CEO, Desert Arc

Barb Adair
Assistant General Manager, Desert Recreation District

Yolanda Moreno
Founder, Cholla Hiking Club

CC:

The Honorable Debra Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Laphonza Butler, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Dr. Raul Ruiz, U.S. Representative

The Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management