

October 14, 2009

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Public Lands
1333 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall and Grijalva,

We are writing to express support for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and thank you for adding it to the hearing schedule in the House Committee on Natural Resources. After so many years, it is time to give Utah wilderness a fair chance and a hearing for the Red Rock bill is a good place to start. In view of our changing climate and the resulting drought, dust storms, shrinking water supplies and biodiversity loss, we believe there is little time to waste when it comes to ensuring the survival of our special places for future generations to enjoy. Protection of Utah's wilderness landscapes will also ensure that Utah has the resources to build a stable economy based on recreation, tourism and the outdoor industry.

As business owners we understand the importance of protecting the beautiful, natural landscapes of Utah – like the San Rafael Swell and the West Desert. The beauty of the landscape is an astounding resource for Utah that sets it apart from most other places in the world, providing Utahns remarkable opportunities for outdoor recreation and serving as a magnet for tourists from other parts of the country and world. In a study of the economic impact of National Parks in Southeast Utah by the National Parks and Conservation Association, released in 2009, the authors report that: "In 2006, over 1.2 million visitors came to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, spending some \$99 million during their visits." Economists estimate, that this spending supported 2,315 jobs.

For this reason it is time for Congress to give Utah wilderness a full and fair hearing. Passage of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act would permanently protect the vast landscapes of scenic wonders like Cedar Mesa, whose first inhabitants occupied its canyons thousands of years ago and where ancient artifacts are in desperate need of protection. In total, this legislation would preserve over 9 million acres of Utah's incomparable red rock canyonlands, pristine Mojave Desert, and vast Basin and Range wilderness.

The public lands within Utah are an unmatched resource. While these are lands of many different uses, from recreation to development, recently we have witnessed certain uses given priority over others. It is important for Utah and this nation that we appropriately

balance these uses of public lands. America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, has been a beacon of hope for Utahns who have waited all too long to see the wilderness issue addressed. We greatly appreciate your efforts to aid in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A Wanderlust Adventure Co.

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Alta lodge

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Pack Rat Outdoor Center

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Christine Lee Carver P.C.

Powderwhore Productions

Dammeron Corporation

Rocking V Café

Deanna Rosen, LCSW

Rupestrian Cyber Services

Desert Highlights

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Snow Country Limousine, Inc

Great Southwest Adventures, Inc

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Heindselmans Knit and Weaving

Streamline Industries

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Tom Till Gallery

J. Groene Construction, Inc.

University of Wilderness, Inc

Llama, LLC

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