

For submission into the hearing record on America's Redrock Wilderness Act:

As leaders or members of ten different faith traditions in Utah, we are writing to share an interfaith statement that reflects widespread support within our communities for protection of Utah's wild lands. This statement, "Faith and the Land: A Call for Wilderness Stewardship," is powerful testimony to the fact that people from an impressive diversity of faith traditions in Utah care about the future of Utah's wild places and want to see them protected.

We represent members of Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Islamic, Jewish, Latter-day Saint, Methodist, Presbyterian, Quaker, Unitarian Universalist and United Church of Christ faith communities in Utah. Over the last year, more than 230 members of our communities participated in dialogues within our congregations about the relationship between spirituality and wilderness. We found that though our religious practices vary, we stand on common ground in our deep respect for creation and the natural world and our belief that we have a responsibility to safeguard nature, including wilderness lands.

The attached interfaith statement highlights the major themes and messages that emerged across all our dialogues. At its heart, it carries a very important message: *Utah's wild lands are places of profound spiritual importance to people of many different faith traditions and deserve meaningful protection.*

We encourage members of Congress to take time to read through the interfaith statement and hear for themselves what members of our faith communities in Utah have expressed about the spiritual value of wilderness and the need for protective stewardship. It is also our hope that Congress will act to help ensure the protection of Utah's precious wilderness heritage.

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Reverend Erin Gilmore
Holladay United Church of Christ

Reverend Steve Goodier
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