

From: Scott Hommel
To: [Megan Bloomgren](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Downey Magallanes](#)
Subject: Fwd: EO: Antiquities Act Z remarks
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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: April 24, 2017 at 5:01:19 PM EDT
To: Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: EO: Antiquities Act Z remarks

Attached are the Secretary's remarks for EO. OKed by Downey, Meg, Laura.

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REMARKS: EXECUTIVE ORDER ANTIQUITIES ACT

On behalf of the West, and especially Senator Hatch, I am honored and humbled to welcome the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, to the Interior Department today.

I can tell you as a Montana guy, today's executive order to review abuses of the Antiquities Act over the past two decades is a long time coming.

Thank you Mr. President for hearing the call of rural communities who feel like their voices have been ignored.

The Department of the Interior is the steward of America's public lands. Part of being a good steward is being a good neighbor and being a good listener. In the Trump Administration, we listen.

You know, the view from the Potomac is a lot different than the view from the Yellowstone or the Rio Grande.

Too many times, you have people in D.C. who have never been to an area, never grazed the land, fished the river, or driven the trails, who are making decisions for the land and water and trails.

Local concern over abuses to the Antiquities Act has been bubbling for years. Recent administrations have used the Act, not as a tool for recognizing unique special areas as Teddy Roosevelt and its authors intended, but rather as a tool for the federal government to control how land is used.

The Act calls for the President to designate the "smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

By and large, national monuments historically have served as a tool to protect our special places and locations of important cultural and scientific discovery.

Yet, in recent years we've seen single monument designations span millions of acres both onshore and offshore.

These massive designations are nothing more than land grabs in rural communities that can least afford it.

They are bad for local economies because they put the land off limits for grazing, mining, and even some outdoor recreation, which is a major economic engine for small businesses.

They are also bad for seniors and persons with disabilities because it could close much of the land off from motor vehicle access.

One of my favorite monuments is the Little Bighorn Battlefield Monument, the site of Custer's Last Stand and the historic victory by the Lakota and Cheyenne.

But somewhere along the way, the Act became a tool of political advocacy rather than public interest.

Under President Trump's leadership I'm looking forward to working with local and state representatives to review the few designations that aren't working well for the local communities.

Thank you again Mr. President for being here today and for hearing the concern of the West.