

Utah Wilderness Coalition



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US Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the millions of Americans who comprise our members and supporters, including scientists, anglers, ranchers, hunters, outfitters, naturalists, outdoor enthusiasts, business owners, paddlers, hikers, and wildlife watchers, we write to express our enthusiastic support for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, which has been introduced by Sen. Dick Durbin. We urge you to become a cosponsor of this legislation and support the protection of Utah's iconic wilderness quality landscapes during the 116th Congress.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will permanently protect some of the most magnificent lands of our nation, major sections of the illegally-repealed Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bears Ears National Monument, and the critical wildlands adjacent to and surrounding Utah's five national parks, including Zion, Arches, Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef. In total, the bill would preserve for posterity around 8.4 million acres of wilderness-quality public lands, all owned by the American people under the auspices of the Bureau of Land Management and unique to the world. These lands encompass a great diversity of habitats, from undulating expanses of sand dunes to towering sandstone monoliths and cool desert oases. The Colorado River system—the very lifeblood of the Western U.S.—winds its way through the wildest parts of the landscape on its journey to the Grand Canyon and beyond.

Wilderness designation is the ultimate protection for all these rare and fragile resources. But our members throughout the country also treasure these places for the many opportunities they offer for primitive recreation, like hunting, fishing, boating, horseback riding, hiking, camping, wildlife-viewing, and sight-seeing. All of these activities would be allowed to continue under the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and would help support the economies of nearby communities.

Sadly, without the Red Rock bill's protection, the pristine character of these wildlands continues to be threatened by mining, oil & gas development, proposed tar sands development and inappropriate off-road vehicle use. Protecting the lands in America's Red Rock Wilderness Act would restore a critical balance to land management in the region, allowing industrial and off-road vehicle use to continue elsewhere in Utah, while preserving the wildest places that merit protection but remain seriously threatened.

As we face the future of climate change, protection of the last wild places is even more essential to ensure ecosystem durability and species adaptation. Utah's wildlands are home to a startling array of sensitive wildlife, including two dozen endangered or sensitive species such as the Gila monster, desert tortoise, bald eagle, and peregrine falcon. Leading scientists suggest preserving large refugia will allow threatened species such as these to adapt and survive. A human tale exists here as well: these lands contain some of the most archeologically and culturally valuable resources in the country, such as petroglyphs and pictographs dating as far back as 12,000 years. While these treasures have remained largely preserved by the area's remoteness, they face increasing risk from industrial activity and off-road vehicles and vandals.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will protect the irreplaceable and spectacular wild public lands of Utah that are the natural heritage and birthright of all Americans. We urge you to join with us to protect America's iconic red rock landscapes for generations to come. To sign on as an cosponsor, please contact Kevin Lefebber in Sen. Durbin's office by phone at 202-224-2152 or by email at kevin_lefeber@durbin.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

The Utah Wilderness Coalition
ProtectWildUtah.org

Alliance for the Wild Rockies
Alta Lodge
Bird and Hike
Bret Webster Images
Bridgerland Audubon Society
Brown Bag Farms
Burroughs Audubon Society
BYU Earth Stewardship
Californians for Western
Wilderness
Canyon Country Rising Tide
Carol Montgomery Drake
CPA PLLC
Clayhaus Photography
Coloradoan for Utah
Wilderness (ColorUWild)
Dabney & Dabney PLLC
Decatur Audubon Society
Desert Tortoise Council
EcoFlight
Elders Rising
Elgin Unitarian Universalist
Green Team
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Unitarian Church of Salt Lake
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Equality Utah
Get Outdoors Nevada
Glen Canyon Institute
Glenn Randall Writing and
Photography
Grand Valley Audubon
Great Basin Coffee
Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Great Salt Lake Audubon
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Holiday River Expeditions
Illinois Clergy & Laity for
Utah Wilderness

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New Yorkers for Utah
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Ohio Friends for Utah
Wilderness
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Wilderness

Pennsylvania Friends of Utah
Wilderness
Petoskey Audubon Club
RESTORE: The North Woods
Rig to Flip
Rock County Progressives
Rupestrian CyberServices
San Luis Valley Ecosystem
Council
Sierra Club
Southern Utah Wilderness
Alliance
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Society and Natural
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Taproot Soda
Unitarian Universalist Society
Geneva Green Sanctuary
Team
Upper Green River Alliance
Utah Moms for Clean Air
Utah Physicians for Healthy
Environment
Utah Rivers Council
Utah Society for
Environmental Education
Utah Tar Sands Resistance
Wasatch Mountain Club
Wasatch Rising Tide
Wasatch Touring
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