



**April 15, 2026**

**Subject: Please Oppose S.J.Res.109 / H.J.Res.151 to Protect National Monuments and Public Process**

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the Morongo Basin Conservation Association (MBCA), I am writing to respectfully urge you to vote NO on S.J.Res.109 / H.J.Res.151, the Congressional Review Act resolution that would overturn the management plan for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

We are one of many organizations and communities who care deeply about our public lands and national monuments. These places safeguard clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and access to nature for present and future generations. Efforts to overturn their management plans put these values at risk and undermine decades of conservation progress.

Resource Management Plans are not developed lightly. They are the result of years of public engagement and environmental review, incorporating input from Tribes, local communities, recreation groups, and stakeholders across many sectors. These plans are designed to balance access, recreation, and conservation in a thoughtful and durable way.

Using the Congressional Review Act to overturn such a plan would discard that extensive public process. It would also prevent similar protections from being implemented in the future, creating long-term uncertainty for public land management across the country.

While this resolution targets a monument in Utah, its consequences extend well beyond. It would set a dangerous precedent that could expose national monuments nationwide to similar reversals. Here in California, that includes landscapes such as Sand to Snow National Monument and Mojave Trails National Monument, which are vital to our region's biodiversity, cultural heritage, and outdoor access.

In the California desert, these protected lands also support local economies, sustain tourism, and provide essential opportunities for public connection to nature. Undermining their management threatens not only ecosystems, but also the communities that depend on them.

At a time when climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and equitable access to nature are more important than ever, maintaining strong and stable management of our national monuments is critical.



We respectfully ask that you **oppose S.J.Res.109 / H.J.Res.151** and continue to support science-based, community-informed stewardship of our public lands.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to protecting California's natural heritage.

Sincerely,

Steve Bardwell, President (Pioneertown)

Erin Gatlin, Vice President (Yucca Valley)

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

Laraine Turk (Joshua Tree)

Bob Wold (Joshua Tree)

Stacy Doolittle (Joshua Tree)

David Fick (Joshua Tree)

Brian Hammer (Lucerne Valley)

Janet Johnston (Joshua Tree)

Sarah Kennington (Pioneertown)

Pat Flanagan (Twentynine Palms)

Arch McCulloch (Morongo Valley)

Joani Tremblay (Pioneertown)

Morongo Basin Conservation Association — Protecting Our Deserts for 57 Years