



April 15, 2016

Subject: Please Oppose S.J.Res.109 / H.J.Res.151 to Protect Public Lands and the Integrity of Environmental Review

Dear Senator Schiff,

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.

Our public lands and national monuments are among the nation's most enduring commitments to future generations. They safeguard clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and public access to nature. They are also the product of decades of law, science, and public participation working together to shape responsible stewardship.

Resource Management Plans are developed through rigorous environmental review and years of input from Tribes, scientists, local communities, and diverse stakeholders. This process reflects not only environmental priorities, but also the integrity of our democratic institutions. Using the Congressional Review Act to overturn such a plan bypasses that process entirely, discarding years of public engagement and undermining the rule-based systems that guide federal land management.

Beyond this specific case, the implications are far-reaching. The CRA does not simply repeal a plan. It prevents future administrations from issuing substantially similar protections, creating a lasting gap in our ability to manage public lands based on science and evolving conditions. This sets a troubling precedent for how environmental decisions can be undone without deliberation or accountability.

While this resolution targets a monument in Utah, it has direct relevance for California. National monuments such as Sand to Snow National Monument and Mojave Trails National Monument which are essential to our state's biodiversity, climate resilience, and cultural heritage. They also support local communities and economies across the California desert.

At a time when we face increasing environmental challenges, it is critical that federal land management remains grounded in science, public input, and institutional stability. Actions that weaken these foundations risk long-term consequences for both our landscapes and our democratic processes.



We respectfully ask that you **oppose S.J.Res.109 / H.J.Res.151** and continue your leadership in protecting public lands and upholding the integrity of environmental decision-making.

Thank you for your continued service and commitment to safeguarding our shared 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