



November 16, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden and Kamala Harris
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

We write to you today to formally thank you for taking action to restore Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. The Administration's decision to reinstate these two important monuments to their original size will preserve decades of culture, and ensure that healing and restoration can take place in these sacred and cultural places. As a new coalition led by and rooted in ethnically and racially diverse communities, we are encouraged by this restoration action, and call on you, Mr. President, to continue responding to communities' requests for land and cultural resource protection.

Our coalition, Monumental SHIFT, launched in October 2021 to transform the traditional creation, conception, funding, and stewardship of national monuments in the United States in order to better represent and honor lands and places sacred and cultural to the communities which we belong to. Through leadership by historically and purposefully excluded communities in advocacy, organizing, and storytelling, our coalition supports and furthers the creation of new national monuments.

We continue to have hope that your administration will follow through with promises to continue making place-based conservation a priority, particularly for places and lands which represent the communities which we belong to. We reaffirm that the Antiquities Act is a powerful tool available to you as the President of the United States to designate and protect sacred and cultural lands. Since it was signed into law in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt, 17 presidents—nine Republicans and eight Democrats—have used the Antiquities Act to protect our natural and cultural heritage. Through the Antiquities Act, U.S. presidents have been able to protect hundreds of millions of acres of land that





have significant cultural and historical significance. Hence, we believe Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts are the crucial first steps in confirming your administration's commitment to supporting and listening to racially and ethnically diverse leaders advocating for national monuments—and we look forward to helping make that happen.

Our coalition expresses our gratitude for your continued advocacy for our communities, and we look forward to continuing our shared mission together.

Respectfully,

Monumental SHIFT

MonumentalSHIFT.org



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