

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION, No. 116

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Opposes any reduction in size of, or level of protection afforded to, any currently designated national monument.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** opposing any reduction in the size of,
2 or level of protection afforded to, any currently designated
3 national monument in the United States.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, For over 100 years, United States presidents have
6 exercised the authority granted by the Antiquities Act of 1906
7 (Antiquities Act) to designate as national monuments hundreds of
8 thousands of acres of historic landmarks, structures, and other
9 objects of historic or scientific interest, in order to preserve the rich
10 cultural and ecological legacies of this nation, and to protect the
11 designated areas from mining, oil drilling, and other forms of
12 desecration; and

13 **WHEREAS**, As the effects of climate change become more apparent
14 across the nation, the designation of national monuments has
15 become an increasingly important tool for conservation; and

16 **WHEREAS**, On April 26, 2017, President Donald Trump signed an
17 executive order directing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a
18 review of all presidential designations and expansions of
19 designations made under the Antiquities Act since January 1, 1996,
20 where the designation covers more than 100,000 acres; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The Secretary of the Interior produced a report which
22 reportedly recommended reducing the size of four national
23 monuments—Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-
24 Escalante National Monument in Utah, Gold Butte National
25 Monument in Nevada, and Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
26 in Oregon—although the report was not made public; and

27 **WHEREAS**, In December 2018, President Trump issued two
28 proclamations, which reduce the size of Bears Ears National
29 Monument by approximately 1,150,000 acres and Grand Staircase-
30 Escalante National Monument by approximately 660,000 acres,
31 meaning that almost 2 million acres of public lands may be lost;
32 and

33 **WHEREAS**, It is imperative that national monuments be protected in
34 order to preserve the rich cultural and ecological legacy and the
35 natural resources of this great nation for many generations to come,
36 and it is therefore altogether fitting and proper for this House to
37 oppose any changes in the designations of the many invaluable
38 national monuments in the United States; now, therefore,

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40 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
41 *Jersey:*

42
43 1. This House respectfully urges the President of the United
44 States and the Secretary of the United States Department of the
45 Interior to refrain from supporting or implementing any reduction in
46 the size of, or level of protection afforded to, any currently
47 designated national monument in the United States.

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1 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
3 President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, and
4 every member of Congress elected from the State of New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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9 This resolution respectfully urges the President of the United
10 States and the Secretary of the United States Department of the
11 Interior to refrain from supporting or implementing any reduction in
12 the size of, or level of protection afforded to, any currently
13 designated national monument in the United States.

14 It is imperative that national monuments be protected in order to
15 preserve the rich cultural and ecological legacy of this great nation
16 for many generations to come. It is for this reason that this
17 resolution opposes any changes in federal policy concerning
18 national monuments that may result in less protection of these
19 important, and often vulnerable, areas.