



Joint Press Release

Navajo Nation Office
of the President and the Vice President
and Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker



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Tribal Nations Agree – There is Historic and Unprecedented Inter-Tribal Support of a Bears Ears National Monument

WASHINGTON—Today’s press conference entitled “Utah Navajo to Voice Opposition to Monument Designation” is another attempt to show selective opposition to the proposed Bears Ears National Monument by using a handful of members of the Navajo Nation, while ignoring the clear support of the elected leadership of the Navajo Nation.

Contrary to this attempt to show opposition, the Navajo Nation Council has unanimously passed a resolution supporting a Bears National Ears Monument. Six of seven Navajo communities in Utah passed resolutions supporting a Bears Ears National Monument. On July 16, at a public hearing in Bluff, Utah hosted by the Obama Administration, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Navajo Nation Speaker LoRenzo Bates stood side-by-side to deliver a strong statement of support urging President Obama to designate a Bears Ears National Monument.

The Utah Tribal Leaders Association also supports a Bears Ears National Monument.

The sovereign tribal nations of Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, Navajo and Ute Tribe of Uintah and Ouray have come together to form an unprecedented Inter-Tribal Coalition to support a Bears Ears National Monument. Twenty-six southwestern Native American Tribes formally support the proposed Bears Ears Monument. The National Congress of American Indians passed a resolution supporting Bears Ears National Monument.

The resolutions have been delivered to the governor and the Utah Congressional delegation. They know the level of tribal support, and the historic united Tribal government support for a Bears Ears National Monument.

“Some Utah politicians are intentionally trying to give the impression that the Navajo Nation and tribal governments are divided and opposed to Bears Ears National Monument, when just the opposite is true,” said Utah-based Navajo Nation Council Delegate Davis Filfred (representing Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa). “Some of those non-Navajo politicians are regularly holding press events and hearings to put forward the voices of a small number of Native Americans opposed to the Bears Ears Monument but fail to highlight the voices of dozens of tribal governments that support the monument. I urge them to stop this attempt to mislead the public and instead listen to the elected tribal government leaders who speak on behalf of their people.”

The Navajo Nation, as a member of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, supports the Bears Ears National Monument proposal.

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