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**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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June 20, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

RE: Protection of our National Monuments

Dear Secretary Zinke,

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is extremely disappointed that President Donald Trump has signed an executive order that attempts to eliminate and/or undermine our national monuments. We believe this action is terribly misguided and strongly urge you to oppose any efforts to eliminate or shrink our national monuments including the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in the State of California with portions in Mendocino County is one of the treasures of our state. The region is the crown jewel of Northern California's wild inner Coast Range. It is one of the most biologically diverse, yet least known regions of California. Located less than one hundred miles from the Sacramento and Bay Area metropolitan regions, the area is a dazzling outdoor wonderland rich in unique natural features and loaded with recreational opportunities.

These public lands stretch nearly one hundred miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa to the flanks of Snow Mountain. This region provides wonderful opportunities to hike, horseback ride, hunt, camp, fish and bird watch, use motorized vehicles in designated areas, enjoy both motorized and non-motorized boating and water recreation, and more.

This area includes thriving blue oak woodlands, red fir forests, creek side habitat, an annual explosion of wildflowers, nearly half of California's dragonfly species, a wealth of butterflies, river otters, trout, tule elk, deer, mountain lions, bears, osprey, and provides habitat to California's second largest population of wintering bald eagles. The Berryessa Snow Mountain region has botanical biodiversity that makes it the center of the California global "hot spot."

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National monuments have already been shown to be tremendous drivers of the \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy. Businesses in gateway communities rely on the permanency of these protections when making decisions about their business investment. Whether at Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California or other monuments across the country, our national monuments should remain protected for future generations to enjoy - they are a gift that belongs to all Americans.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors firmly opposes any effort to revoke or diminish protections for National Monuments. Further we urge you to support our public lands and recommend that our current national monuments remain protected.

Sincerely,

John McCowen, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein, CA

Senator Kamala Harris, CA

Congressman Mike Thompson, District 5, CA

Congressman John Garamendi, District 3, CA

Congressman Jared Huffman, District 2, CA

Mary Neumayr, Acting Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture