

Support for Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

U.S. Congress

- Congresswoman Dina Titus (2022 letter)
- Congresswoman Susie Lee (2022 letter)

Tribal Support

- The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (2019 resolution)
- The Moapa Band of Paiutes (2021 letter)
- The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe (2021 resolution)
- The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (27 tribes) (2021 resolution)
- The Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (21 tribes) (2021 resolution)
- The Las Vegas Paiute Tribe (2021 letter)
- Las Vegas Indian Center (2021 letter)
- Native American Alliance, CSN (2021 letter)
- Native American Student Association, UNLV (2020 letter)

State & Local Government Support

- The State of Nevada Legislature (2021 joint resolution)
- Searchlight Town Advisory Board (2021 letter)
- Boulder City Council (2021 resolution)
- Laughlin Town Advisory Board (2021 vote)

Business Community

- Boulder City Chamber of Commerce (2021 letter)
- Laughlin Chamber of Commerce (2021 letter)
- Laughlin Tourism Commission (2021 letter)
- Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition (2021 letter)

Conservation and Other Support (sample)

- Alan O'Neill, former Lake Mead Superintendent
- Assemblyman Howard Watts (NV)
- Conservation Lands Foundation
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Friends of NV Wilderness
- Friends of Sloan Canyon
- Friends of Walking Box Ranch
- Get Outdoors Nevada
- International Dark-Sky Association
- Las Vegas Astronomical Society
- National Park Conservation Association
- Nevada Conservation League
- Protectors of Tule Springs
- Save Red Rock
- The Sierra Club
- The Wilderness Society



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE
CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

January 12, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Brenda Mallory
Chair
Council on Environmental Quality
730 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Haaland and Chair Mallory:

Thank you for your longtime commitment to conserving our public lands for future generations and working with communities and tribal nations on these issues. We have an opportunity to preserve a place of deep sacred reverence filled with natural wonders and vibrant scenery of several mountain ranges. Avi Kwa Ame is the Mojave name for Spirit Mountain, the center of creation for Yuman-speaking tribes, and the surrounding landscape. While Spirit Mountain enjoys permanent protection as part of Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the sacred landscape associated with it is still in need of permanent protection.

Today, I announce my support for the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument proposal and my intent to introduce legislation to establish these protections. I have communicated this and have been working with Jon Raby, State Director for the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada, on an agency-produced map of the proposed monument. As you implement your priorities to address environmental justice, climate change, and improving the quality of life for our fellow Americans, I ask that you join me in supporting my legislation and the effort to make this a reality.

The proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument in Southern Nevada, nearing 450,000 acres, contains unique and stunning geography and culturally significant resources in the Mojave Desert. The Avi Kwa Ame landscape, stretching from the Newberry mountains in the east to the New York, South McCullough, Castle, and Piute mountains in the west, features scenic peaks and canyons, natural springs, Joshua tree forests, bighorn migration routes, unique grasslands, and a rich history of petroglyphs and other ancient cultural sites.

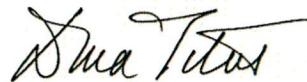
The entire area is considered sacred by ten Yuman-speaking tribes as well as the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute. Spirit Mountain itself is located on the eastern boundary of the Monument. It is designated a Traditional Cultural Property on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its religious and cultural importance.

A robust coalition of tribes, local communities, including Clark County, Boulder City, Searchlight, and Laughlin, the Nevada Legislature, conservation groups, recreation interests, and

other stakeholders are working to establish the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument to permanently protect these treasured lands. I will be announcing my intent to introduce legislation to designate Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument with conservationists and tribal leaders on Friday, January 14, at 10:30am Pacific Time. The event will be [livestreamed](#) and the link can be shared with your staff.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you on this matter and invite you to visit the Avi Kwa Ame landscape. I stand ready to work with your team on this exciting legislation to preserve our heritage and important conservation lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dina Titus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

SUSIE LEE
3RD DISTRICT, NEVADA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
365 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3252

DISTRICT OFFICE
8872 S. EASTERN AVE, SUITE 220
LAS VEGAS, NV 89123
(702) 963-9336



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2803

COMMITTEE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & WATER DEVELOPMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES

January 12, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Secretary Haaland,

Thank you and President Biden for the administration's commitment to conserving America's public lands and working with local communities and tribes to that end. As a representative of Nevada – where over 80 percent of our land area is owned and administered by the federal government – it is my top priority to ensure responsible stewardship of southern Nevada's treasured public lands. In pursuit of this goal, I actively and routinely engage with my constituents on public lands issues, and I take seriously my responsibility to elevate their feedback to the federal agencies responsible for managing these lands. To that end, I write to bring your attention to a proposal to protect a region of cultural, historical, and ecological significance in my district – locally known as Avi Kwa Ame – via national monument designation. I write to express my support for establishing an Avi Kwa Ame national monument in alignment with the interests of my constituents and request a meeting to discuss this monument proposal with you. As part of that meeting, I invite you to come tour the proposed monument area in my district and witness firsthand the beauty of the lands under discussion.

Avi Kwa Ame is the Mojave name for Spirit Mountain, the center of creation for Yuman speaking tribes, and the surrounding landscape. Spirit Mountain is located in Lake Mead National Recreation Area and the sacred land around it includes 380,000 acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation.

Stretching from the Newberry mountains in the east to the New York, South McCullough, Castle, and Piute mountains in the west, this region contains some of the most visually stunning, biologically diverse, and culturally significant lands in the entire Mojave Desert. These lands feature dramatic peaks, scenic canyons, natural springs, sloping bajadas covered with ancient Joshua tree forests, unique grasslands, and a rich history of rock art, and other cultural sites.

The region holds immense cultural, recreational, ecological, and economic value. The entire area is considered sacred by ten Yuman speaking tribes, as well as by the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute. For the Yuman tribes, the area is tied to their creation, cosmology, and well-being. The area is also critical habitat for rare and threatened wildlife, including the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep, as well as home to some of the oldest and largest Joshua trees on the planet. In addition, the area is treasured by outdoor recreation enthusiasts for its exquisite hiking, hunting, birding, stargazing, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding on designated roads. These activities draw visitors and economic activity to the area, attracting businesses and creating local jobs.

Spirit Mountain, itself, is currently designated a Traditional Cultural Property on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its religious and cultural importance. A coalition of tribes, local communities, such as Searchlight, Laughlin, and Boulder City, the Nevada Legislature, conservation groups, recreation interests, and others are working in coordination to establish this region as a national monument to permanently protect these treasured lands. This proposal has also garnered national attention.

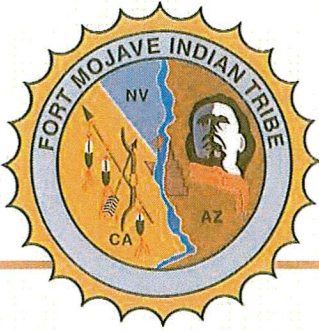
As you implement President Biden's priorities to conserve America's public lands, promote sustainable land use, honor commitments to Tribal communities, and invest in our rural economies, I request an opportunity to meet with you to discuss the proposed Avi Kwa Ame national monument and invite you to tour the proposed monument area at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and your commitment to responsible stewardship of our nation's public lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susie Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

TIMOTHY WILLIAMS - Chairman

SHAN LEWIS - Vice-Chairman

COLLEEN GARCIA - Secretary

NICHOLE GARCIA - Council Member • NORVIN McCORD SR. - Council Member

JOHNNY HEMMERS - Council Member • CELLINA REYES - Council Member

500 Merriman Avenue • Needles, CA 92363

(760) 629-4591 • Fax (760) 629-5767

September 24, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL and CERTIFIED MAIL

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jacky Rosen
144 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Susie Lee
522 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Fort Mojave Indian Tribal Council Position Supporting the Establishment of the *Avi Kwa Ame* (Spirit Mountain) National Monument.

Dear Senator Cortez Masto, Senator Rosen and Representative Lee,

The Fort Mojave Tribal Council, duly elected governmental body representing the federally recognized and sovereign nation of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (FMIT or Tribe) wishes to express our full support and endorsement for the establishment of the *Avi Kwa Ame* (Spirit Mountain) National Monument, and request your help and leadership to advance this effort. The *Avi Kwa Ame* National Monument proposal was developed through cooperation between Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, National Parks Conservation Association, Conservation Lands Foundation and others.

Attached, please find a Tribal Council Resolution formalizing our support for protecting the connectivity of a natural and cultural landscape of significant importance spanning between the California/Nevada border on the west to Lake Mead National Recreation Area on the east, and to the Dead Mountains and the important Granite Springs site to the south. *Avi Kwa Ame*, a National Register of Historic Places Listed Property of traditional religious and cultural importance or traditional cultural property, is the center of Mojave creation and figures predominately within the Tribe's spiritual ideology.

For years, FMIT has been integrally involved in regional and project specific planning efforts conducted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS). We serve as the caretakers of *Avi Kwa Ame* and surrounding landscapes on behalf of the other Yuman tribes.

FMIT applauds the BLM for its decision in November 2018 to deny the permit application for the proposed Crescent Peak Wind Project, in part due to strong opposition from tribes considering the project would impair resources of significant tribal importance. Tribes have consistently articulated that any industrial project in this area is not culturally or environmentally appropriate. There is no potential mitigation possible for the direct, indirect, and cumulative encroachment and destruction/desecration of sacred and cultural landscapes.

For decades, Tribes have worked to protect endangered wildlife and their habitat, cultural resources and properties of traditional religious and cultural importance in this region, including the Castle Mountains National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument, Mojave National Preserve and Dead Mountains Wilderness in California to the west and Spirit Mountain Traditional Cultural Property and Lake Mead National Recreation Area to the east. What is now needed is legislation to effectuate permanent protection for this critical missing link.

Thank you for your consideration of the Tribe's position regarding this matter and our request for your help. If you have any questions or wish to discuss aspects further, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address or phone indicated on the letterhead or contacting Linda Otero, Director of the AhaMakav Cultural Society, by phone at (928) 768-4475 or by email at lindaotero@fortmojave.com.

Sincerely,



Timothy Williams
Chairman, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

CC: Fort Mojave Tribal Council
Fort Mojave Tribal Legal Counsel
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe AhaMakav Cultural Society

Enclosure

RESOLUTION

FORT MOJAVE TRIBE OF THE FORT MOJAVE
RESERVATION OF
ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA

WHEREAS, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (“Tribe”) is organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984; 25 U.S.C. §476) and possesses attributes of sovereignty over both its members and its territory; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws, the Tribe is governed by the Fort Mojave Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe wishes to preserve and protect the Tribe’s rich cultural heritage, ancestral homelands and territories; and

WHEREAS, the place known as *Avi Kwa Ame* (Spirit Mountain) (National Register of Historic Places Listed Property of traditional religious and cultural importance or traditional cultural property) is the center of Mojave creation and figures predominately within the Tribe’s spiritual ideology; and

WHEREAS, this place is physically and spiritually connected to the viewsheds and landscapes that surround *Avi Kwa Ame*; including the surrounding mountain peaks and ranges, the physical network of Mojave trail systems and cultural sites (tangible cultural resources), and the corresponding Mojave Bird Songs and Creation Stories (intangible cultural resources), which links the Mojave and our related Yuman tribes to this important landscape; and

WHEREAS, this landscape contains areas of both sacred and ritual importance that are associated with traditional cosmogony, delineate religious events, and embody religious figures. This landscape also contains the biological diversity important to the ecological and traditional wellbeing of the Mojave People; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Fort Mojave Indian Tribal Council fully supports and endorses the establishment of the *Avi Kwa Ame* (Spirit Mountain) National Monument, protecting the connectivity of a natural and cultural landscape of significant importance spanning between the California/Nevada border on the west to Lake Mead National Recreation Area on the east, and to the Dead Mountains and the important Granite Springs site to the south. This Monument will protect endangered wildlife and habitat, cultural and ethnographic resources, and multiple properties of traditional religious and cultural importance.

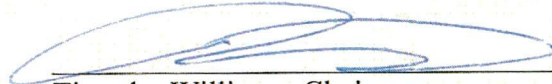
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Fort Mojave Indian Tribal Council strongly opposes energy development in this region, and strongly supports the Bureau of Land Management’s decision in November 2018 to terminate the proposed Crescent Peak Wind Project due to significant impacts to numerous resources and strong tribal opposition. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribal Council believes that any industrial project in this area is not culturally or environmentally appropriate nor are any future projects that will create cumulative impacts to the sensitive cultural

and biological landscapes which surrounds the National Register of Historic Places Listed Property of *Avi Kwa Ame* (Spirit Mountain).

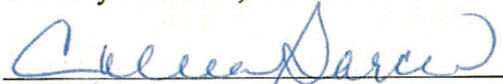
CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, as Chairman and Secretary of the Fort Mojave Council, governing body of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, do hereby certify that the Fort Mojave Tribal Council is composed of seven (7) members, of whom four (4) constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly held on September 30, 2019, and that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the affirmative vote of 6 members for and 0 members against.

FORT MOJAVE TRIBAL COUNCIL



Timothy Williams, Chairman



Colleen Garcia, Secretary

MOAPA BAND OF PAIUTES

MOAPA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION

BOX 340

MOAPA, NEVADA 89025

TELEPHONE (702) 865-2787

FAX (702) 865-2875

June 1, 2021

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto,

On behalf of the Moapa Band of Paiutes, I am writing to express support for the designation of Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument. Avi Kwa Ame located in southern Nevada is home to outstanding ecological, cultural, recreational and scenic values, including ancient Joshua tree forests and rich history of rock art. The area's designation presents an extraordinary opportunity to connect existing protected landscapes from the East Mojave Desert to Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The designation of this area as a National Monument would provide one of the largest contiguous blocks of protected lands in the country while ensuring their preservation for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Because most of the land within the proposed Monument boundary is relatively undisturbed at this time and connects to other protected landscapes, the Monument offers the opportunity to provide species and communities with the space and interconnectedness they may need to help adapt as the climate changes. Protecting these intact landscapes will be essential if the full complement of native species and communities are to persist into the future.

In addition to the spiritual significance of the Monument lands to the Yuman-speaking tribes as well as the Chemehuevi Paiute and Hopi Tribes, there are many historical features and places significant to the western expansion of the United States such as the Mojave Trail, the Garces Expedition, The Camel Corps, Walking Box Ranch and its association with grazing and the movie industry, and old mining sites. A National Monument can play an important role in educating visitors on the importance of these facets of our history.

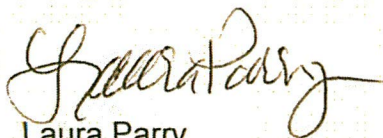
The protection of Avi Kwa Ame (or Spirit Mountain) would provide continued access for spiritual uses as well as OHV use and backcountry driving on existing designated roads,

hunting, camping, hiking, exploring, wildlife photography and other recreational activities. At the same time, the Monument would maintain the integrity of the visual resources. The viewsapes are outstanding, as are the dark night skies and natural quiet.

We also believe that establishment of the Monument can be an important economic generator over time. The outdoor industry in Nevada is a strong and growing sector of the state's economy, especially as we continue to look into ways to diversify our economy. The economic impact of areas such as Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Southern Nevada are impressive and still growing. The greatest value of natural amenities and recreational opportunities often lies in the ability of protected lands to attract and retain people, entrepreneurs, their businesses, and the growing number of retirees, who locate here for quality of life reasons.

We support the designation Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument, as it will conserve important cultural sites, protect wildlife habitat, benefit our state's economy, and secure the permanent protection of these lands for the benefit and enjoyment of Nevadans and visitors alike.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me at chair.mbop@moapabandofpaiutes.org if you have any additional questions.



Laura Parry
Chairwoman
Moapa Band of Paiutes



Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

Curtis Anderson
Tribal Chairman

September 15, 2021

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jacky Rosen
144 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Susie Lee
522 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto, Senator Rosen, and Representative Lee,

Please accept this letter as the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe's full support of efforts to establish the *Avi Kwa Ame* (Spirit Mountain) National Monument. As you know, this proposal was developed through cooperative efforts of the Fort Mohave Indian Tribe, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Conservation Lands Foundation, and others.

Native American Tribes have, historically, worked to protect cultural resources and property, as well as endangered wildlife and habitats. The establishment of the *Avi Kwa Ame* National Monument is the next step in ensuring such protection.

Like the Fort Mojave Tribe, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe opposes energy development in that region, and strongly supports the BLM's decision in November of 2018 to terminate the proposed Crescent Peak Wind Project due to its significant impact on cultural and environmental resources.

Thank you for your consideration in this regard. We look forward to a positive outcome in this matter.

Sincerely,

Curtis Anderson, Chairman

Las Vegas Indian Center



Las Vegas Indian Center

March 9, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Las Vegas Indian Center I, Rulon Pete, am in support of establishing Avi Kwa Ame National Monument with its outstanding ecological, cultural, recreational, and scenic values. Establishing Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument will create an abundance of benefits for the present and future generations to enjoy.

I understand that some have voiced concern over the possibility of losing botanical diversity, habitats of plants and animals as well as many species. But by preserving the sanctity and sacredness of Avi Kwa Ame it will leave a positive impact of Native American ancestral lands.

I fully support the continuity efforts of tribal leaders, conservation groups, and others who are advocating for the establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.

It is hoped that a review of the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument establishment will confirm the need for preservation of public lands. I urge those involved to move forward with the decision to establish Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument due to the area being considered sacred Native American lands for many tribes.

Provided is my contact information for any further correspondence following my letter of support.

Sincerely,

Rulon Pete

Executive Director
Las Vegas Indian Center
rulonpete@lvcoxmail.com

2300 W. Bonanza Road Las Vegas, NV 89106 (702)647-5842

Native American Alliance, CSN



Native American Alliance

College of Southern Nevada
6375 W Charleston Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89146

To Whom It May Concern,

9th March 2021

The Native American Alliance unites College of Southern Nevada Indigenous students to learn about cultural identities. The Alliance works collaboratively with CSN's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to provide services to Indigenous students, faculty, and staff while emphasizing support, safety and educational successes. The Native American Alliance supports recruitment and retention of both high school and college Indigenous students and will treat all people equitably. Our committee is open to anyone interested in Indigenous cultures and experiences.

The CSN Native American Alliance strongly supports the designation of Avi Kwa Ame, or Spirit Mountain, as a National Monument.

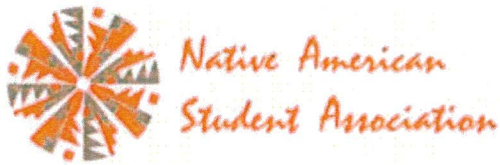
Avi Kwa Ame was formed when the Creator carved out the channel of the Colorado River and piled the Earth into a single place where Creation was to occur. The Southern Paiute people were created in the upper portion of Las Vegas Wash near the base of Nuvagantu ('where snow sits', or Mount Charleston) in the Spring Mountains. These Creation mountains 'stand on their toes and look at one another' according to Paiute beliefs, suggesting a mountain-to-mountain spiritual relationship. Lying in a north-south orientation to the east (Arizona side) of the Colorado River is a Creator Being mountain in the shape of a large lizard (the Black Mountains). Ha'tata ('the middle of the river') is the Hualapai word that describes where the Black Canyon and the Colorado River combine to form the ethnic boundary between two Indian ethnic groups.

Avi Kwa Ame and the surrounding area is sacred to numerous Indigenous peoples. The CSN Native American Alliance urges you to honor it through its preservation as a National Monument.

With Best Regards,

Native American Alliance
College of Southern Nevada

Native American Student Association, UNLV



March 2, 2020

Dear Community,

NASA fully supports the initiative to get Spirit Mountain declared a National Monument, as this site holds the significance as a sacred site to many tribes in the area. Indigenous people are entitled to our freedoms to pray as we believe so, where we are diverse in our belief systems and our sacred sites. NASA stands in solidarity with Spirit Mountain and all allies attempting to declare it to a National Monument.

Sincerely,

NASA Executive Board

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Assemblymen González, Watts,
Yeager, Cohen; Anderson, Brown-May, Flores, Brittney
Miller, Nguyen and Torres

Joint Sponsor: Senator Donate

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging various actions
relating to the protection and conservation of land and water.

WHEREAS, The scientific community recommends protecting 50 percent of the world's lands, oceans and waters by 2050 to prevent ecosystem collapse and keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius and protecting 30 percent of the lands and waters in this State by 2030 as a necessary intermittent step to protect natural systems and mitigate climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, Recent polls found that 73 percent of voters in the western United States support a national goal of protecting 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by 2030; and

WHEREAS, The State's abundance of public lands provides an opportunity to follow the scientific community's recommendation to protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Land conservation and restoration increases natural carbon sequestration and is one of the most cost-effective solutions to combatting climate change; and

WHEREAS, The State's economic livelihood and communities are threatened by the loss of natural lands due to industrial development, wildfires and invasive species; and

WHEREAS, The State has lost more than 9 million acres of wildlife habitat in the last 2 decades to wildfires and only a small percentage of lands in the State are currently protected; and

WHEREAS, The 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature enacted Senate Bill No. 254 to require the identification of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, relative to 2005 levels, by at least 28 percent by 2025, by at least 45 percent by 2030 and to zero or near-zero emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, The conservation of land and water in the State may be accomplished through a combination of federal and state action including, without limitation, designating or establishing wilderness areas, national parks, state parks and wildlife management areas; and

WHEREAS, Avi Kwa Ame, also known as Spirit Mountain, located in southern Nevada is sacred to ten Yuman-speaking tribes



81st Session (2021)

and contains some of the most visually stunning, biologically diverse and culturally significant lands in the Mojave Desert; and

WHEREAS, Establishing Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument is a crucial step in the preservation of Native American ancestral lands which will help reach the recommendation to protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and

WHEREAS, The Desert National Wildlife Refuge is the largest wildlife refuge in the lower 48 states and contains world-class biological, cultural and recreational resources; and

WHEREAS, Permanent protection for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge from the threat of military expansion will provide sanctuary for 320 bird species, 53 mammal species, 39 reptile and amphibian species and more than 500 plant species; and

WHEREAS, Protected public and private lands are the drivers of the State's outdoor recreation industry, which generates \$12.6 billion in annual consumer spending, supporting 87,000 jobs and providing more than \$1 billion in tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, The State has shown a commitment to outdoor recreation, conservation and protection of land through the recent creation of the Division of Outdoor Recreation of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the establishment of state parks and recreation areas such as Walker River State Recreation Area and Ice Age Fossils State Park; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, people have greatly benefitted from the physical, mental and emotional health benefits provided by various recreational activities on public lands; and

WHEREAS, The State has approximately 70.2 million acres of total land and roughly 80 percent of the State is administered by various federal agencies that have multiple-use mandates, creating unique management opportunities and challenges; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous methods of protecting and managing the land are an essential and fundamental part of a concerted effort to balance the climate and restore biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, Impactful solutions to the biodiversity crisis require partnerships and collaboration between federal agencies, the State, local governments, tribal governments, local communities, private landowners, ranchers, farmers, hunters, anglers, outdoor recreationists, conservationists and other land-use stakeholders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature express support for the goal of protecting 30



percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030 and protecting 30 percent of the lands and waters of the United States by 2030; and be it further

RESOLVED, That President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and the Congress of the United States are urged to support a long-term goal of protecting 50 percent of the planet, inland waters and oceans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to work cooperatively with federal agencies in order to protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and be it further

RESOLVED, That state and local agencies engaged in efforts to support and expand the protection of land and waters are urged to honor tribal jurisdictions and the rights of indigenous tribes through informed consultation with tribal governments; and be it further

RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to provide fair treatment and meaningful involvement to people of all races, cultures, incomes and natural origins by soliciting, accounting for and responding to the voices, needs and priorities of communities of color, indigenous communities and economically disadvantaged communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to encourage private land owners to participate in voluntary programs to protect wildlife habitat and increase carbon sequestration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That federal, state and local agencies are urged to work with the Nevada Congressional Delegation to identify opportunities for federal legislation and regulatory action to expand protection and conservation measures on public lands in the State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, Governor Steve Sisolak and the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.



Searchlight Town Advisory Board

Searchlight Town Advisory Board
Searchlight Community Center
200 Michael Wendell Way
P.O. Box 949
Searchlight, Nevada 89046
(702)298-0828
Fax (702) 298-6132

June 9, 2021

Commissioner Michael Naft
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Floor 6
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155

At the June 9, 2021 meeting of the Searchlight Town Advisory Board, a letter of support was approved for the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument, here in Southern Nevada. The monument will safeguard the preservation of the pristine lands and the quality of life that Nevadans and visitors currently enjoy, and for many future generations to come.

The Searchlight residents have been concerned for decades about the potential damage of large-scale developments coming to the area, and the repeated attempts by international corporations to blight the scenic views with turbines hundreds of feet tall, decimate critical migratory corridors for big horn sheep, raptors and other birds, native plants, Joshua trees, and other protected species. The creation of a national monument would prevent infringement on our diverse environment, quality of life, and provide new compatible opportunities for economic development, bringing positive changes to the community.

It is imperative to our community that existing access and use of the land is preserved with no restrictions. Outdoor recreation activities like OHV / ATV travel, camping, and hunting are vital to Searchlight residents, and potentially attract new residents and visitors to this area.

The Searchlight Town Advisory Board fully supports the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument and appreciates your serious consideration for the betterment and benefits this National Monument would provide not only for our community but for all to enjoy. Your support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to your continued involvement with the area's preservation and management.

Respectfully submitted,

John Leone, Chair
Searchlight Town Advisory Board

cc: Les Lee Shell
STAB members
Mark Moskowitz
BCC

Boulder City Council

RESOLUTION NO. 7261

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BOULDER CITY, NEVADA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED AVI KWA AME NATIONAL MONUMENT

WHEREAS, Avi Kwa Ame National Monument is a proposal to establish a new national monument on roughly 383,000 acres of public land in southern Clark County; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Boundary of the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument borders the Boulder City Conservation Easement Area, extending the benefits of the conservations easement's objectives; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of tribes, conservation groups, recreation interests and local residents are working on the Monument proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Monument would protect an expanse of relatively intact East Mojave Desert ecosystem in Nevada that provides continuity to other parts of the East Mojave Desert ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Monument will serve as a contiguous block of habitat of sufficient quality and quantity to promote the survival, growth, reproduction, and maintenance of viable populations of Mojave Desert flora and fauna; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council expresses support for the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.

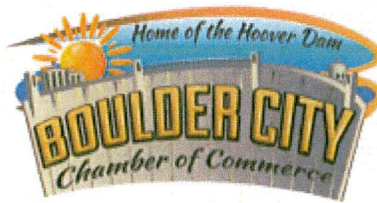
DATED and **APPROVED** this 23rd day of March 2021

Kiernan McManus, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tami McKay, Acting City Clerk

Boulder City Chamber of Commerce



January 15, 2021

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto,

On behalf of the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce, I would like to extend our support for the establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. The Avi Kwa Ame presents an extraordinary opportunity to create a Monument that would connect existing protected landscapes on the East Mojave Desert to Lake Mead National Recreation Area, by way of sweeping across Boulder City's Conservation Easement. This Monument would provide one of the largest contiguous blocks of protected lands anywhere in the country and build upon progress made on the California side with the establishment of Mojave National Preserve, Castle Mountains National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument and the Dead Mountains Wilderness Area.

The proposed monument protects important features in a unique and significant manner, combining a hotspot of biological diversity with landscape-scale ecological, cultural, historic and sacred values. The proposed monument provides species and communities with both the space and the interconnectedness to adapt to climate change. An arid climate, delicate soils, and the slow pace of ecological succession means that the Mojave Desert is exceedingly fragile and slow to adapt to changes and to recover from impacts. The proposed monument offers opportunity to enjoy rare natural quiet, dark night skies and solitude, valuable especially when so close to a major metropolitan area.

We strongly support the idea of protecting this landscape for its important cultural, historic and sacred values as well. From the standpoint of the United States as a nation, the area is a microcosm of western history. However, the human history of this landscape predates our nation. The area is closely tied, in particular, to the creation stories, cosmology, and well-being of the ten groups of Yuman-speaking peoples. The area is also important to the Chemehuevi Paiute people and the Hopi people. It is not only Spirit Mountain and the Dead Mountains that are significant sacred sites, but the entire associated landscape that is considered sacred.

We believe a monument designation is the appropriate designation for this area. Although over 70% of the area is already overlaid with an administrative designation of an area of critical environmental concern (the Paiute/Eldorado Valley ACEC), this designation is, of course, subject to administrative changes. The ACEC was established to protect the desert tortoise; it is not designed to protect other species, wildlife corridors nor the other important historic, cultural, visual and recreational resources of the area.

Thank you for your consideration of the initiative to establish the Avi Kwa Ami National Monument. We stand ready to work with you in how best to carry this out.

Sincerely,

Jill Rowland-Lagan, ACE
CEO

100 Nevada Way, Boulder City, NV 89005-2643 • 702.293.2034

WWW.BOULDERCITYCHAMBER.COM



1585 S. Casino Dr.
Laughlin, NV 89029
P: (702) 298-2214
F: (702) 298-5708
www.laughlinchamber.com



November 22, 2021

U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
313 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen
713 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Representative Susie Lee
365 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20510

County Commissioner Michael Naft
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Floor 6
Las Vegas, NV 89155

**RE: Laughlin Chamber of Commerce support for Proposed
Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) National Monument**

Dear: Senator Cortez Masto
Senator Rosen
Representative Lee
Commissioner Naft

On behalf of the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce, we write to express our support for the proposed Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) National Monument. We ask for your help to secure the establishment of this national monument.

Laughlin has been growing as a regional leader in outdoor recreation for tourism and the tri-state residents, and the national monument would complement efforts we are already leading to help the public experience the nationally significant public lands surrounding Laughlin, including the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the Arizona Heritage Trail, the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Parks and Trails, and the Black Canyon and Mojave National Water Trails. Establishing the national monument will help preserve the exceptional, diverse recreational opportunities that the public can experience in our region, from backcountry driving and wildlife viewing to camping and hunting.

Recent economic studies have concluded that national monuments not only help nearby communities diversify economically, but also increase the quality of life and recreational opportunities that make communities more attractive for new residents, businesses, and investment. This is another reason why we support the establishment of this national monument.

Building A Better Community Together

Our mission is to support our members and community by identifying and addressing the changing needs of our region - focusing on building a vibrant and prosperous resort town, increasing tourism, promoting recreation, educating our youth and business owners, and giving back to those in need.



1585 S. Casino Dr.
 Laughlin, NV 89029
 P: (702) 298-2214
 F: (702) 298-5708
 www.laughlinchamber.com



We have appreciated the ongoing collaboration and open lines of communication with advocates of the monument, and their efforts over the past two years to provide us with information, respond to questions, and address concerns that have been raised.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our support for the establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) National Monument and for your efforts to support Laughlin's tourism goals and enhance the recreational opportunities for local citizens.

Sincerely,


 Fred Doten, Chairman

11/29/21
 Date


 Sean Hammond, Past Chairman

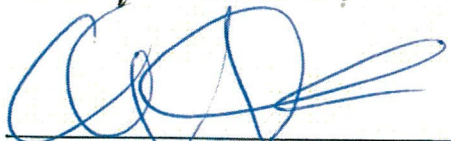
11/23/21
 Date


 Brie Tyler, Vice Chairman

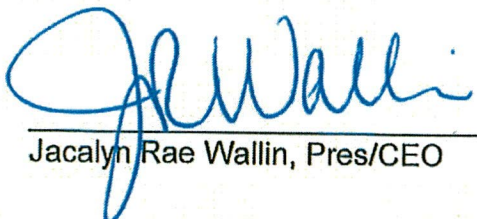
11/23/21
 Date


 Robert Church, Secretary

12/7/21
 Date


 Chuck Copeland, Treasurer

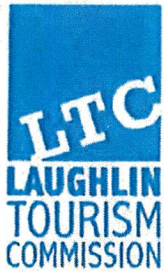
12/03/2021
 Date


 Jacalyn Rae Wallin, Pres/CEO

11/21/21
 Date

Building A Better Community Together

Our mission is to support our members and community by identifying and addressing the changing needs of our region - focusing on building a vibrant and prosperous resort town, increasing tourism, promoting recreation, educating our youth and business owners, and giving back to those in need.



1585 S. Casino Dr.
Laughlin, NV 89029
P: (702) 298-2214
F: (702) 298 5708
www.visitlaughlin.com



November 22, 2021

U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
313 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen
713 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Representative Susie Lee
365 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20510

County Commissioner Michael Naft
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Floor 6
Las Vegas, NV 89155

**RE: Laughlin Chamber of Commerce support for Proposed
Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) National Monument**

Dear: Senator Cortez Masto
Senator Rosen
Representative Lee
Commissioner Naft

On behalf of the Laughlin Tourism Commission, we write to express our support for the proposed Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) National Monument. We ask for your help to secure the establishment of this national monument.

Laughlin has been growing as a regional leader in outdoor recreation for tourism and the tri-state residents, and the national monument would complement efforts we are already leading to help the public experience the nationally significant public lands surrounding Laughlin, including the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the Arizona Heritage Trail, the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Parks and Trails, and the Black Canyon and Mojave National Water Trails. Establishing the national monument will help preserve the exceptional, diverse recreational opportunities that the public can experience in our region, from backcountry driving and wildlife viewing to camping and hunting.

Recent economic studies have concluded that national monuments not only help nearby communities diversify economically, but also increase the quality of life and recreational opportunities that make communities more attractive for new residents, businesses, and investment. This is another reason why we support the establishment of this national monument.

Dedicated to increasing tourism to Laughlin through town wide events



1585 S. Casino Dr.
 Laughlin, NV 89029
 P: (702) 298-2214
 F: (702) 298 5708
 www.visitlaughlin.com



We have appreciated the ongoing collaboration and open lines of communication with advocates of the monument, and their efforts over the past two years to provide us with information, respond to questions, and address concerns that have been raised.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our support for the establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) National Monument and for your efforts to support Laughlin's tourism goals and enhance the recreational opportunities for local citizens.

Sincerely,

Brad Rutledge, President
 Sr. VP & GM Golden Nugget Laughlin

11.22.21

Date

Matt Laughlin, Vice President
 COO Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort

11-30-21

Date

Sean Hammond, Treasurer
 Sr. VP & GM Aquarius & Edgewater Resorts

11.22.21

Date

Rodney Turlan, Director
 Sr. VP & GM Harrah's & Tropicana Laughlin

11/30/21

Date

Jeremy Yaza, Director
 GM The New Pioneer

11/30/21

Date

Jacalyn Rae Wallin, Executive Director

11/22/21

Date

Dedicated to increasing tourism to Laughlin through town wide events

Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition



May 3, 2021

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto,

As president of Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition (NVOBC), I am writing to express NVOBC's support for the designation of Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument. This area is of critical importance culturally and ecologically. Avi Kwa Ame is home to plant and animal life that make Nevada unique. It also embodies important parts of Nevada's history, as sacred land for our Native tribes and pieces of our modern history like Walking Box Ranch. Plus, Avi Kwa Ame plays a crucial role in our state's economic future.

Outdoor recreation is a fast-growing part of Nevada's economy. Even before the pandemic, our industry sustained more than three times as many jobs as mining. But today, with interest and engagement in outdoor recreation at an all-time high, there's even more opportunity for Nevada's outdoor recreation economy to skyrocket.

The Outdoor Industry Association reports that 2020 marked the most significant uptick in outdoor participation since they started tracking data. The report offers statistics like 8.1 million more people in the U.S. went hiking in 2020. This means Nevada now has a much larger audience, people hungry to explore public lands like Avi Kwa Ame.

The protection of Avi Kwa Ame would provide continued access for spiritual uses as well as OHV use and backcountry driving on existing designated roads, hunting, camping, hiking, climbing, photography, and other recreational activities. At the same time, the Monument would maintain the integrity of the visual resources. Avi Kwa Ame's dark night skies are rare, and they attract people to this area. And that's good for business.

It's proven that designations like National Monument move the needle for nearby communities. According to Headwaters Economics, protected lands help create jobs and economic growth. Western counties with the highest share of protected federal lands experience faster population, employment, and personal income growth than those with the lowest percentage of protected federal lands. This means nearby communities have a lot to gain, which is why the Boulder City Chamber and Town Council have also offered their support for this designation. They know it will attract even more visitors and relocating retirees.

The NVOBC believes Avi Kwa Ame will positively impact both rural and metro areas nearby, like Las Vegas and Henderson. The City of Las Vegas' Innovate.Vegas program recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation in attracting a highly-skilled tech workforce and companies. It's why they include the city's proximity to our public lands in their recruiting materials.

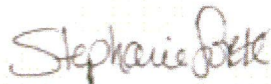
A National Monument can play an important role in educating visitors on important facets of our history, helping people to understand that Nevada is more than the bright lights of Las Vegas and Reno. In short, public lands like Avi Kwa Ame strengthen our state's brand.

Today, the spiritual significance of the Monument lands to the Yuman-speaking tribes and the Chemehuevi Paiute and Hopi Tribes will resonate with visitors like never before. In addition, it allows people the chance to appreciate many historical places significant to the western expansion of the United States, such as the Mojave Trail, the Garces Expedition, The Camel Corps, Walking Box Ranch, and its association with grazing and the movie industry, and old mining sites.

The NVOBC supports the designation Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument, as it will conserve important cultural sites, protect wildlife habitat, benefit our state's economy, and secure the permanent protection of these lands for the benefit and enjoyment of Nevadans and visitors alike.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me at steph@forterprlv.com if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Forté". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Forté
President
Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition

Alan O'Neil, former Lake Mead National Recreation Area Superintendent

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

March 2, 2020

Dear Senator Masto

My name is Alan O'Neill and I am writing to express my strong support for establishing the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. As a means of introduction, I spent 34 years working for the Department of the Interior, mostly with the National Park Service. My last assignment was Superintendent of Lake Mead National Recreation Area where I served in this role for 13 years. After retiring in 2000, I started the Outside Las Vegas Foundation which has been rebranded as "Get Outdoors Nevada." I served as the Executive Director for 10 years before turning it over to Mauricia Baca in 2010 and she has done an outstanding job in growing the organization. Presently, I am involved mostly doing volunteer work for a number of conservation organizations.

The Spirit Mountain (Avi Kwa Ame) area has always intrigued and fascinated me since I arrived in Nevada from Glacier National Park in August 1987. It just seemed and felt different than any landscape I had ever encountered and I have travelled extensively in the U.S. and in other countries. It has always felt very sacred to me and over the years I have developed a close spiritual connection to this place, having taken a number of vision quests to the top of the Spirit Mountain. When I served as Superintendent of Lake Mead NRA, we worked with the Native American community to get Spirit Mountain designated as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in 1999. This was one of the first TCP's designated in the country. We spent over three years working with the Yuman speaking tribes as well as the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute to get this designation accomplished. This clearly brought into focus the importance of Spirit Mountain as a sacred landscape to the indigenous people of the area.

Although the designation of Spirit Mountain as a Traditional Cultural Property itself was considered a victory for the tribes, there was an understanding that this action was only a first step in recognizing the importance of this area to the indigenous people. The tribes were uncomfortable with the TCP boundary only including Spirit Mountain itself but understood that a boundary needed to be established in order for the site to be approved by the Keeper of the National Register for addition to the National Register of Historic Places. It is important to point out that it is not only the mountain itself that is important to the Tribes but the entire surrounding landscape is physically and spiritually connected to Spirit Mountain in their world-view. There was an understanding that future protection of the surrounding landscape needed to be addressed because of its association with cultural practices and beliefs of the Tribes and its importance in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

It wasn't until the proposal of two bad wind projects in the area – the Searchlight Wind Project and the Crescent Peak Wind Project- that the issue came back to the forefront. Both of these projects would have created industrial level projects in the center of this important ecological and cultural landscape. This got the Tribes and the conservation community active in thinking of

ways to protect the area over and above the existing Paiute/Eldorado Valley ACEC designation. The ACEC designation is an Administrative designation by BLM and was established to help protect the Desert Tortoise and does not deal with the protection of important wildlife migratory corridors and does not deal at all with the cultural issues important to the Tribes as well as the importance of maintaining the great viewsapes. This is certainly one of the most diverse and important ecological landscapes anywhere in the Mojave Desert.

I think a number of us were hoping to address some of these issues in BLM's Resource Management Planning process. The Tribes were on record in their comments on the draft RMP and in their resolution that they opposed wind development in the area and wanted to see the area protected. Likewise, most of the conservation community commented on the need to protect the area in their comments on the draft plan. When BLM cancelled the Resource Management Planning Process and the land prescriptions reverted to what was approved in the 1998 RMP, there was great concern about the vulnerability of the landscape in South Clark County. A case example was the 34,000 acres that were part of the proposed Crescent Peak Wind Project. The 1998 RMP had no prescriptions on these 34,000 acres and they are right in the middle of what is an intact and sensitive ecosystem. Concern continued about what might happen to these areas without any protection prescriptions.

Following the cancellation of BLM's RMP planning process, discussions ensued with the Native American community and conservation organizations about how to best deal with the protections needed in South Clark County. Out of these discussions came the idea of creating a new National Monument to connect the protected areas on the California side of the border to Lake Mead National Recreation Area on the Nevada side. Since the county and the Congressional delegation were already working on the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act, the thought was that the Monument could be incorporated as one of the conservation elements in that legislation. The Monument designation provides the most flexibility to both protect the ecological and cultural values while maintaining the rural character of the area and protecting existing recreational uses of the land such as hunting, hiking, OHV use and backcountry driving on existing roads and trails, and camping. I believe connecting the conservation areas in South Clark County can help improve species diversity and keep the ecosystem healthier while also protecting the important cultural and spiritual values.

I am very pleased and thankful that you put a placeholder in your draft Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act that includes the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. I understand there are still a number of issues that need to be resolved before a bill can go forward. I am hopeful, however, that those issues can be resolved and that the Monument is a part of that legislation. I do have a concern if the legislation does go forward and the Monument is not part of the package, that it would be an exceedingly heavy lift to put a stand-alone piece of legislation forward for a Monument at a later date. Folks back in Washington might be of the opinion that Nevada already got their conservation areas done as part of the Southern Nevada Economic Development & Conservation Act.

I want to pass on a huge thanks to you for your efforts on the bill and for all you do to make our state better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "A".

Alan O'Neill
702-462-6162

Assemblyman Howard Watts

HOWARD WATTS III
ASSEMBLYMAN
District No. 15



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
Office: (775) 684-8835
Fax No.: (775) 684-8533
Email: Howard.Watts@asm.state.nv.us
www.leg.state.nv.us

DISTRICT OFFICE:
P.O. Box 43413
Las Vegas, Nevada 89116-1413
(725) 222-3201
Twitter: @HowardWattsNV

State of Nevada Assembly

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Senator Cortez Masto,

As the Chair of the Nevada Assembly's Committee on Natural Resources, I write in support of designating Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument. Also known as Spirit Mountain, Avi Kwa Ame is home to outstanding ecological, cultural, recreational and scenic values.

Permanent protection would support the goals of the conservation community and Biden administration to preserve or restore thirty percent of our lands and waters by 2030, a goal the Legislature has endorsed under Assembly Joint Resolution 3. The area's designation also presents an extraordinary opportunity to connect existing protected landscapes from the East Mojave Desert to Lake Mead National Recreation Area, providing one of the largest contiguous blocks of protected lands in the country. This large sale corridor protection is critical to allow species to survive and thrive, particularly in the face of a changing climate. This proposed monument includes an ancient Joshua tree forest and the largest recorded Joshua tree in the state.

Lands proposed for protection in Avi Kwa Ame are central to the culture, history, and beliefs of Yuman-speaking tribes, the Chemehuevi Paiute, and Hopi peoples. The potential for greater tribal involvement in management of the monument would help address a history of displacement and disenfranchisement of Indigenous peoples in the state and region, and bring our communities and governments closer together.

There are many significant anthropological sites in the area, from rock art to the Mojave Trail, the Garces Expedition, The Camel Corps, Walking Box Ranch and its association with the movie industry, and old mining sites. A National Monument can play an important role in educating visitors on the importance of and interplay of human history in Southern Nevada.

Protection of Avi Kwa Ame should provide continued access for spiritual and cultural practices, as well as hunting, camping, hiking, exploring, wildlife photography, and OHV and backcountry driving on existing designated roads. Monument designation can support economic activity for Southern Nevada's outdoor recreation sector and nearby communities. At the same time, Monument protection would maintain the integrity of the resources, including viewscapes, dark skies, and natural quiet. There have been proposals for energy development that would negatively impact the area, indicating the need for stronger protection.

For all of these reasons, I humbly ask for your support in establishing the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.

Sincerely,

Conservation Lands Foundation



**CONSERVATION
LANDS
FOUNDATION**

Conservation Lands Foundation

January 13, 2021

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jacky Rosen
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Susie Lee
522 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cortez Masto, Senator Rosen, and Representative Lee:

The Conservation Lands Foundation is in full support of the designation of Avi Kwa Ame as Nevada's fourth national monument. Located in southern Nevada, the landscape is rich in natural, cultural, and historical significance and would make an outstanding addition to the National Conservation Lands.

Permanent protection for Avi Kwa Ame would provide the missing piece of the puzzle for uninterrupted landscape connectivity from Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada and Arizona to the Mojave National Preserve, the Castle Mountains National Monument and the Dead Mountains Wilderness in California. This level of interconnectivity and protection for the area would be an important step toward the global goal of conserving 30% of lands by 2030, and show Nevada's commitment in achieving this goal as a key solution to the climate and biodiversity crises.

The designation also represents an important opportunity in following and honoring the ancestral lands of Indigenous peoples, and Fort Mojave Indian Tribe's request to permanently protect this sacred landscape. Avi Kwa Ame is considered sacred to ten Yuman speaking tribes (the Mohave, Hualapai, Yavapai, Havasupai, Quechan, Maricopa, Pai Pai, and Kumeyaay) as well as the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute.

Outdoor recreation ranks third in jobs sustained in Nevada, behind only gaming and tourism, and healthcare. Protected public lands create visibility for local communities which can play a pivotal role in attracting and retaining people and businesses, boosting local economies. Avi Kwa Ame is a recreationists' wonderland where people can experience the great outdoors – hiking, hunting, birding, riding OHVs on designated routes, star-gazing and traditional tribal uses.

Honor Avi Kwa Ame by ensuring it is permanently protected as a national monument.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me at bertha@conservationlands.org if you have any additional questions.

Bertha Gutierrez
Associate Program Director, Nevada

cc Clark County Commission

Friends of Sloan Canyon



March 2, 2020

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto,

On behalf of the Friends of Sloan Canyon, I would like to extend our support for the establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. The Friends of Sloan Canyon, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, provides community support and educational resources that enhance the conservation, protection and public enjoyment of Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, one of the units in the National Conservation Lands System.

We believe the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument would be a very important addition to the National Conservation Lands System for a number of reasons. First, the Monument would connect the protected pieces of the East Mojave Desert on the California side with Lake Mead National Recreation Area, providing a contiguous block of habitat of sufficient quality and quantity to promote the survival, growth, reproduction, and maintenance of viable populations of Mojave Desert flora and fauna. The Monument also offers the opportunity to provide species and communities with the space and interconnectedness they may need to help adapt to climate change.

The Nature Conservancy's Mojave Desert Ecological Assessment, which analyzed where the highest overall ecological values intersect, shows that around 97% of the proposed Monument lands represent the two highest conservation categories (Ecologically Core and Ecologically Intact). Much of this area is already part of the Paiute/Eldorado Valley ACEC but that is an administrative designation and does not provide for the protection offered by legislative action. It addresses the needs for tortoise but doesn't address other key issues such as maintaining migratory corridors for species such as the Desert Bighorn Sheep.

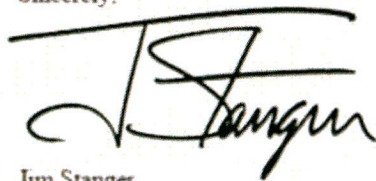
A second reason why the area would make a good addition to the National Conservation Lands System is the significance of the historic and cultural values of the Area. Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) is acknowledged as the most sacred place in the universe for the Yuman-speaking tribes. All Yuman tribes track their origin to this sacred place and the mountain and surrounding landscape continue to serve as a sacred and ceremonial place.

As to the historic values, the landscape included within the proposed Monument played a very important role in the settling and history of the American West such as historic cattle grazing, movie making and the Walking Box Ranch, the historic Mojave Trail, the United States Army Camel Corps, the Garces Expedition and Searchlight gold and silver mining. The Friends of Sloan Canyon has been active at Walking Box Ranch in assisting with the development of interpretive programming and the establishment of the new Friends of Walking Box Ranch organization.

The third reason why the proposed Monument would be a good addition to the National Landscape Conservation System is the opportunity it provides to protect existing recreational uses such as hunting, hiking, camping, OHV use and backcountry driving on existing roads and the spectacular views, socioeconomics and rural character of the area.

We are hopeful that the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument can be included in the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act that you are drafting. We also understand that there are a number of issues that need to be address before that bill can move forward but are hopeful that they can be resolved. If the legislation does not go forward, we hope that you will consider drafting a stand-alone piece of legislation that would establish the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Stanger". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and "S".

Jim Stanger
Board President
Friends of Sloan Canyon

Friends of Walking Box Ranch

Friends of Walking Box Ranch

March 8, 2020

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto,

On behalf of the Friends of Walking Box Ranch, I would like to extend our support for the establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. The Friends of Walking Box Ranch is a new organization formed in December 2019 to assist the Bureau of Land Management with stewardship activities on the site including training tour guides, funding restoration efforts, facilitating historic scholarship, and community outreach. The Friends has formed a Board and has just received its non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

The Walking Box Ranch has a rich and colorful history associated with historic grazing and the movie industry. It was the remote setting and mystique of the Joshua Tree Forest and diverse Mojave Desert landscape that captured the attention of Hollywood stars Rex Bell and Clara Bow in the early 1930s, who craved solitude and a way of escaping the Hollywood rat race. Rex Bell and Clara Bow were some of the biggest film actors of the 1920s and 30's and the ranch became a hangout for some of the Hollywood elite of the period.

The ranch today looks much like it did back when Rex Bell and Clara Bow lived there. The Ranch sits in the middle of a dense Joshua Tree Forest, the eastern terminus of the world's largest Joshua Tree Forest. The area is relatively undisturbed and has an exceedingly rich flora and fauna. It is also part of an important cultural and spiritual landscape and is within the viewshed of Spirit Mountain and considered sacred by the Yuman speaking tribes as well as the Hopi and the Chemehuevi Paiute.

We are concerned about retaining this important setting which allows the public to see the area in its historic context. Fortunately, the Crescent Peak Wind Project was cancelled by the Bureau of Land Management in December 2108. If that project had moved forward, the entire area just west of the ranch would have been covered by wind turbines and the land forever seriously altered with the building of an extensive road network and associated industrial level development.

The hope was that additional protection for the area surrounding the ranch would be addressed in BLM Resource Management Planning Process. However, BLM ended up cancelling that planning process, so the old 1998 plan remains the planning process of record which leaves the 34,000 acres adjacent to the Ranch without any defined land prescriptions and vulnerable to potential adverse development. We believe establishing a National Monument not only protects the integrity of the Walking Box Ranch

but provides a protective corridor from the protected areas on the California side to Lake Mead National Recreation Area. That is very important as it provides a contiguous block of habitat of sufficient quality and quantity to promote the survival, growth, reproduction, and maintenance of viable populations of Mojave Desert flora and fauna. It also offers the opportunity to provide species and communities with the space and interconnectedness they may need to help adopt to climate change.

Because of its location near the center of the Monument, we envision an important role for Monument when it is established and look forward to participating in the planning and eventual management of the Monument.

Sincerely,

Paula Jacoby-Garrett
Vice Chair, Friends of Walking Box Ranch

Get Outdoors Nevada



June 29, 2020

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto,

On behalf of Get Outdoors Nevada, I am writing to express our support for the establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. The Avi Kwa Ame presents an extraordinary opportunity to create a Monument that would connect existing protected landscapes on the East Mojave Desert to Lake Mead National Recreation Area. This Monument would provide one of the largest contiguous blocks of protected lands anywhere in the country and build upon progress made in California side with the establishment of Mojave National Preserve, Castle Mountains National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument and the Dead Mountains Wilderness Area.

Because most of the land within the proposed Monument boundary is relatively undisturbed at this time and connects to other protected lands, the Monument offers the opportunity to provide species and communities with the space and interconnectedness they may need to help adapt to climate change. The lack of disturbance is of great importance, because the Mojave's arid climate, delicate soils, and slow pace of ecological succession render it exceedingly fragile and slow to recover when impacted. Protecting these intact landscapes will be essential if the full complement of native species and communities are to persist into the future. Conserving connections between species preferred habitat allows individual movements and multi-generational dispersal, thereby increasing long-term species viability.

As you are aware, this is also one of the most significant cultural landscapes in the Western United States. Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) is acknowledged as the most sacred place in the universe for the Yuman-speaking tribes. All Yuman tribes track their origin to this sacred landscape. The area is also important to the Chemehuevi Paiute and the Hopi Tribes. Today, Spirit Mountain and the Dead Mountains, along with the surrounding landscape continue to serve as a sacred and ceremonial place. The landscape is critical to the religion, traditional lifeways, and practices of these tribes. In addition to the spiritual significance of the Monument lands, there are many historical features and places significant to the western expansion of the United States such as the Mojave Trail, the Garces Expedition, The Camel Corps, Walking Box Ranch and its association with grazing and the movie industry, and old mining sites. A National Monument can play an important role in educating visitors on the importance of these facets of our history.

Because an important part of Get Outdoors Nevada mission is to help connect people to our diverse outdoors environments, we see the Monument lands as an important potential venue in the mix of outdoor offerings here in Southern Nevada. The Monument would provide continued access for OHV use and backcountry driving on existing designated roads, hunting, camping, hiking, exploring, wildlife photography and other recreational activities. At the same time, the Monument would maintain the integrity of the visual resources. The views are outstanding, as are the dark night skies and natural quiet.

International Dark-Sky Association



INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

International Dark-Sky Association
3223 North First Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719, USA
tel +1.520.293.3198
www.darksky.org

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Draft Legislation regarding Spirit Mountain National Monument

Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

My name is John Barentine, and I direct the public policy work of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. IDA's goals are to preserve and protect the night time environment and our heritage of dark skies through environmentally responsible outdoor lighting.

Your staff may be familiar with Mr. Kevin Swartz, who is the Nevada Delegate for the IDA. We are sure you are familiar with our work regarding the Massacre Rim Dark Skies site, which IDA designated last year as Nevada's first International Dark Sky Sanctuary.

On behalf of the IDA, I applaud your efforts to create and preserve lands in southern Nevada as described in your legislation. We believe your proposed legislation could be improved by adding content that would establish lighting policies for the lands to be disposed. We attach draft language here in support of our request.

We also urge inclusion of language directing the Bureau of Land Management to apply to the IDA for the appropriate designation of the proposed monument lands as an IDA International Dark Sky Place. We suggest the following wording: *"After enactment of this legislation, the site administrator shall develop a master management plan for the Monument that includes the active conservation of dark skies through appropriate outdoor lighting policies, and shall apply for certification of the Monument by the International Dark-Sky Association."*

We greatly appreciate your consideration in this matter. Should you or your staff have any questions, or require additional information, please feel to reach out to me or Kevin Swartz.

Yours sincerely,

John C. Barentine, Ph.D.
Director of Public Policy

cc: Mr. Zack Zaragoza

Executive Director: Rossan Hartley
Emeritus Director: David L. Crawford, Ph.D.
Board of Directors: Ken Kattner, President, USA • Kelle Pendoley, Vice President, Australia • Kim Patton, Treasurer, USA • Jessica Dwyer, Secretary, USA • Laurel Alyn-Forest, USA • Krissa Glasgow, USA • Diane Knutson, USA • Alejandro Sanchez Miguel, Spain • Diana Umpierre, USA

Las Vegas Astronomical Society



LAS VEGAS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Astronomy outreach and science education in Southern Nevada since 1980

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto,

On behalf of the Las Vegas Astronomical Society, I'm writing to express support for the designation of Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument. Avi Kwa Ame located in southern Nevada is home to outstanding ecological, cultural, recreational and scenic values, including ancient Joshua tree forests and rich history of rock art. The area's designation presents an extraordinary opportunity to connect existing protected landscapes from the East Mojave Desert to Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The designation of this area as a National Monument would provide one of the largest contiguous blocks of protected lands in the country while ensuring their preservation for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Because most of the land within the proposed Monument boundary is relatively undisturbed at this time and connects to other protected landscapes, the Monument offers the opportunity to provide species and communities with the space and interconnectedness they may need to help adapt as the climate changes. Protecting these intact landscapes will be essential if the full complement of native species and communities are to persist into the future.

In addition to the spiritual significance of the Monument lands to the Yuman-speaking tribes as well as the Chemehuevi Paiute and Hopi Tribes, there are many historical features and places significant to the western expansion of the United States such as the Mojave Trail, the Garces Expedition, The Camel Corps, Walking Box Ranch and its association with grazing and the movie industry, and old mining sites. A National Monument can play an important role in educating visitors on the importance of these facets of our history.

The protection of Avi Kwa Ame (or Spirit Mountain) would provide continued access for spiritual uses as well as OHV use and backcountry driving on existing designated roads, hunting, camping, hiking, exploring, wildlife photography and other recreational



LAS VEGAS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Astronomy outreach and science education in Southern Nevada since 1980

activities. At the same time, the Monument would maintain the integrity of the visual resources. The viewsapes are outstanding, as are the dark night skies and natural quiet.

We also believe that establishment of the Monument can be an important economic generator over time. The outdoor industry in Nevada is a strong and growing sector of the state's economy, especially as we continue to look into ways to diversify our economy. The economic impact of areas such as Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Southern Nevada are impressive and still growing. The greatest value of natural amenities and recreational opportunities often lies in the ability of protected lands to attract and retain people, entrepreneurs, their businesses, and the growing number of retirees, who locate here for quality of life reasons.

We support the designation Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument, as it will conserve important cultural sites, protect wildlife habitat, benefit our state's economy, and secure the permanent protection of these lands for the benefit and enjoyment of Nevadans and visitors alike.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me at keithcaceres@gmail.com if you have any additional questions.

Keith A. Caceres

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith A. Caceres".

President

Las Vegas Astronomical Society

National Park Conservation Association



November 1, 2019

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jacky Rosen
144 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Susie Lee
522 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

Dear Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen, and Congresswoman Lee,

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), I write to express our support for the establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. The proposed monument would encompass a landscape that has significant natural and cultural resources in need of permanent protection.

NPCA has worked for decades to protect lands surrounding the proposed monument. Avi Kwa Ame would connect the Mojave National Preserve, Castle Mountains National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument and the Dead Mountains Wilderness in California with the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Colorado River Plateau.

We have been working closely with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe on this monument proposal. Fort Mojave is the caretaker of Avi Kwa Ame on behalf of the Yuman-speaking tribes and recently adopted a resolution supporting the monument proposal.

Working together with the tribes, state and federal agencies, and the Searchlight community, we successfully advocated against the development of the 30,000-acre Crescent Peak Wind project in this region. Now is the time to permanently protect this region, which has sustained life and culture for tribes since time immemorial.

Thank you for your consideration,



Neal Desai
Sr. Program Director, Pacific Region
National Parks Conservation Association

January 11, 2020

The Honorable Congresswoman Susie Lee
522 Cannon HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

Re: Support for Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

Dear Congresswoman Susie Lee,

The Nevada Conservation League is excited to express our support of the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.

Avi Kwa Ame, also known as Spirit Mountain, is an area of great cultural and environmental significance. The entire area is considered sacred by ten Yuman speaking tribes as well as the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute. For the Yuman tribes, the area is tied to their creation, cosmology, and well-being. Spirit Mountain, called Avi Kwa Ame by the Mojave Tribe, is located on the eastern boundary of the proposed Monument. It is designated a Traditional Cultural Property on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its religious and cultural importance. In addition to this area holding a deep legacy of significance for our Native American brothers and sisters, it also holds a rich variety of flora and fauna. Joshua trees, tortoises, and gila monsters call 380,000 acres Avi Kwa Ame their home. By protecting this land, we are conserving its biological diversity.

Avi Kwa Ame contains some of the most visually stunning and culturally significant lands in the Mojave Desert. The scenic canyons, natural springs, and beautiful peaks are unique to the history of the Southwest, and deserve to be preserved and protected for years to come. Recently, developers have proposed projects in the heart of Avi Kwa Ame, and though these efforts were not successful, we know a new proposal can come at any time. In addition to the cultural significance of Spirit Mountain, it is important to note that national monuments are also great economic drivers. Several recent economic studies concluded that national monuments help nearby communities diversify economically while increasing quality of life and recreational opportunities. Every year, outdoor recreation industry in Nevada generates \$12.6 billion in consumer spending, 87,000 jobs, \$4 billion in wages and salaries, and \$1.1 billion in state and local tax revenue, according to the Outdoor Industry Association.

The Nevada Conservation League strongly supports the idea of protecting this landscape for its important cultural, historic, and sacred values. We believe a monument designation is appropriate for this area. Though a portion of this area is protected as an ACEC, it is not enough. A designation is another important step in preserving Native American cultural and ancestral heritage, and to conserving the rich biodiversity of the Mojave Desert.

Thank you for your consideration of the initiative to establish the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Paul Selberg, Executive Director
Nevada Conservation League

Protectors of Tule Springs

Protectors of Tule Springs
517 S. 9th Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101



March 11, 2020

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Masto:

The Protectors of Tule Springs extend our support for the establishment of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. As you are aware, our non-profit organization helped lead the effort to get the Tule Springs Fossil Beds established as a National Monument to protect the valuable ice age fossil remains in the Upper Las Vegas Wash. We now assist both the National Park Service and Nevada State Parks in the stewardship of this special place. We are proud that our community made it a priority to protect these valuable resources versus developing them for urban expansion.

Protectors feels the same way about the protection of the proposed Avi Kwa Ame monument lands in southern Clark County. The area has nationally significant ecological and cultural values that need a level of protection greater than what is afforded as an administratively designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern. This area has been threatened with industrial development in the form of wind farms which would forever change the rural nature of the area and compromise what has been done to protect other key elements of the Eastern Mojave Desert ecosystem over the past several decades.

Of equal, and perhaps of even greater value, is the need to protect what may be one of the most important spiritual and sacred landscapes in the West. The historic trails and numerous cultural sites within the Monument link the tribes and religious traditions to this important landscape. The area is also held sacred by both the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute.

We have an extraordinary opportunity now, while the area is still rural and relatively undisturbed, to create a protective corridor from the Mojave National Preserve, Castle Mountains National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument, and Dead Mountains Wilderness Area on the California side to Lake Mead National Recreation Area on the Nevada side. Protectors believes National Monument designation is the best long-term designation for the area, as it provides protection of the ecological resources and cultural values while also accommodating existing recreation uses

We ask that you include the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument within a bill or as a stand -alone bill when you will feel the time is right for its passage.

Sincerely,

Jill DeStefano
President, Protectors of Tule Springs

info@protectorsoftulesprings.org
www.protectorsoftulesprings.org

Save Red Rock



Heather Fisher
10575 Discovery Dr.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89135

Dear Commissioner Naft,

Aristotle once said, "in all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous." From the beauty that expands beyond possible reach to the fresh inhale of air that fills lungs with Mother Nature's sweet breath. Never before have we seen such an economical, emotional and societal health need for the great outdoors.

In Nevada, we are fortunate to have a rich backyard full of wonders, but it is not a luxury we should take for granted. That is why Save Red Rock is proud to support the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.

Avi Kwa Ame, also known as Spirit Mountain, is home to a rich habitat of captivating flora and fauna. Across 380,000 acres of desert, tortoises, gila monsters, joshua trees, and so many others thrive. A national monument designation of this area would not only protect these native species but also conserve nationally significant natural, cultural, historic and recreational values.

The entire area in the proposed monument is considered sacred by the 10 Yuman speaking tribes. It is tied to their creation, cosmology and well-being. By protecting this sacred land, we can honor the Native cultural sites while respectfully observing the "living laboratory" that is the Eastern Mojave Desert.

The proposed monument would also provide numerous health benefits to our community. As the pandemic has swiftly changed our lives, we have found in Red Rock Canyon that more people are getting outdoors and exploring. Nature does wonders for our mental health and well-being. The monument would protect recreational uses of the land, such as camping, hiking and backcountry driving. This promotes healthy outdoor habits while exposing families to the beauty of wild lands.

Save Red Rock has dedicated the past 19 years to preserving the fragile conservation and recreation resources of Red Rock Canyon. It is imperative that our community express the same effort to protect Spirit Mountain. Avi Kwa Ame National Monument would protect native plants and wildlife, preserve sacred Native American cultural sites, extend recreational uses and prevent fragmentation of the natural landscape.

In all things nature, there is certainly something marvelous. From the sunny desert skies to the humble tortoise, it is our duty to protect these marvels so generations to come can marvel as well.

Thank you for your consideration of the initiative to establish the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. We stand ready to work with you to carry this out.

Sincerely,

Heather Fisher

President, Save Red Rock

The Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter

November 13, 2020

The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Re: Support for Avi Kwa Ami National Monument

Dear Senator Cortez Masto,

The Sierra Club's Toiyabe Chapter is enthusiastic in support of the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.

The proposed monument protects important features in a unique and significant manner, combining a hotspot of biological diversity with landscape-scale ecological, cultural, historic and sacred values. The proposed monument provides species and communities with both the space and the interconnectedness to adapt to climate change. An arid climate, delicate soils, and the slow pace of ecological succession means that the Mojave Desert is exceedingly fragile and slow to adapt to changes and to recover from impacts.

The proposed monument offers opportunity to enjoy increasingly rare natural quiet, dark night skies and solitude, valuable especially when so close to a major metropolitan area.

We strongly support the idea of protecting this landscape for its important cultural, historic and sacred values as well. From the standpoint of the United States as a nation, the area is a microcosm of western history. However, the human history of this landscape predates our nation. The area is closely tied, in particular, to the creation stories, cosmology, and well-being of the ten groups of Yuman-speaking peoples. The area is also important to the Chemehuevi Paiute people and the Hopi people. It is not only Spirit Mountain and the Dead Mountains that are significant sacred sites, but the entire associated landscape that is considered sacred.

We believe a monument designation is the appropriate designation for this area. Although over 70% of the area is already overlaid with an administrative designation of an area of critical environmental concern (the Paiute/Eldorado Valley ACEC), this designation is, of course, subject to administrative changes. The ACEC was established to protect the desert tortoise; it is not designed to protect other species, wildlife corridors nor the other important historic, cultural, visual, and recreational resources of the area.

Thank you for your consideration of the initiative to establish the Avi Kwa Ami National Monument. We stand ready to work with you in how best to carry this out.

Sincerely,

Anne Macquarie, Chair
Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter

The Wilderness Society



December 9, 2020

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susie Lee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen, and Representative Lee:

I write on behalf of The Wilderness Society and our more than one million members and supporters to express our support for the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument and to request that you support the establishment of this monument.

The proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument contains some of the most visually stunning, biologically diverse and culturally significant lands in the entire Mojave Desert. It would connect the Mojave National Preserve in California to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, providing a vast expanse of unbroken habitat.

Avi Kwa Ame is the Mojave name for Spirit Mountain, which is tied directly to the creation story and well-being of many Indian tribes. At least eleven tribes consider the area sacred, and the lands have long been recognized for their cultural significance. A portion of the region is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its religious and cultural importance.

These lands need to be permanently protected for the benefit of the tribes who have used these lands for generations, and for all Nevadans who enjoy the peace and quiet of our deserts. Please support the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.

Sincerely,

Paul Spitzer
Director of Wilderness Policy