

Senate Engrossed

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-second Legislature
First Regular Session
2015

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1001

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE THE DESIGNATION OF THE
GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT IN NORTHERN ARIZONA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the President and the Congress of the United States:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, Arizonans value the Grand Canyon as a national and world
4 treasure and as an economic engine; and

5 Whereas, there is no threat to the Grand Canyon National Park and its
6 surrounding lands; and

7 Whereas, existing laws and regulations, including the National
8 Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the
9 Archaeological Resources Protection Act and many others, ensure the
10 protection and responsible use of the Grand Canyon National Park and its
11 surrounding lands; and

12 Whereas, as of 2012, Arizona had the third highest total designated
13 wilderness acreage in the United States with 4.5 million acres.
14 Additionally, another 5.8 million acres were affected by special land use
15 designations, including national monuments; and

16 Whereas, only three members of the eleven-member Arizona congressional
17 delegation and others have requested that the President of the United States
18 use his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate an estimated 1.7
19 million acres in northern Arizona as the Grand Canyon Watershed National
20 Monument; and

21 Whereas, this proposed designation would almost double the amount of
22 acreage designated as national monuments in Arizona and would be the nation's
23 second largest national monument after the neighboring Grand
24 Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah, which is over 1.8
25 million acres; and

26 Whereas, the federal government granted lands at statehood to the State
27 of Arizona to be held in trust to provide a source of income for schools and
28 other beneficiaries; and

29 Whereas, the proposed monument designation would severely impact
30 thousands of acres of state trust lands locked up within its boundaries and
31 deny their beneficial use to the trust; and

32 Whereas, this taking of state trust lands within the proposed national
33 monument without just compensation would be a breach of the sacred trust
34 between the State of Arizona and the federal government that was agreed on in
35 this state's enabling act and harms Arizona's school children; and

36 Whereas, withdrawal of this vast amount of lands from multiple-use
37 management eliminates or restricts reasonable and thoughtful use of these
38 natural resources for multiple purposes, such as recreation, grazing, mining,
39 energy development and forestry; and

40 Whereas, multiple-use management of these lands by the United States
41 Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service is based on
42 resource management plans that were developed with public input and have
43 framed the use of these lands since the passage of the Federal Land Policy
44 and Management Act in 1976; and

1 Whereas, responsible use of natural resources provides a substantial
2 economic benefit to northern Arizona and there is no reason to eliminate this
3 benefit for a nonexistent threat; and

4 Whereas, the conservation of wildlife resources across Arizona is the
5 trust responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission; and

6 Whereas, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission voted to oppose the
7 proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument on May 11, 2012 and its
8 analysis found that monument designation can lead to restrictions on
9 proactive wildlife management, including hunting and fishing access; and

10 Whereas, national monument designation requires a very narrow
11 management regime and could severely restrict forest management activities,
12 such as scientifically established fire management, erosion control and
13 invasive species treatments; and

14 Whereas, in addition, Arizona's proper management of state forest
15 lands, which includes selective logging, has made for a healthy and prolific
16 environment for naturally occurring habitat and has proven effective in
17 preventing habitat loss, as has occurred on federally managed forest lands,
18 through wildfire; and

19 Whereas, consideration of the effects on the customs, cultures and
20 economic well-being of our local communities as well as important historic
21 and cultural aspects of our local heritage; and

22 Whereas, the cost benefit of this proposal must be considered; and

23 Whereas, while a minority caucus of three of the eleven-member Arizona
24 congressional delegation and a small, yet vocal, group of others advocate to
25 transfer state resources to the federal government, the State of Arizona
26 desires to uphold the congressional designation of the multiple-use policy as
27 per the Federal Land Management Policy Act as being best for our citizens and
28 Arizona's economy.

29 Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
30 Representatives concurring, prays:

31 1. That the President of the United States does not designate the
32 Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument in northern Arizona.

33 2. That the United States Congress oppose the designation of the Grand
34 Canyon Watershed National Monument in northern Arizona.

35 3. That any new monuments, including the proposed Grand Canyon
36 Watershed National Monument, have express state and congressional approval
37 before they are so designated by the President.

38 4. That the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona
39 take appropriate actions to implement this Memorial.

40 5. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
41 of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the
42 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
43 Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona, the
44 Secretary of the Interior, the Governor of the State of Arizona and the
45 Attorney General of the State of Arizona.