

REFERENCE TITLE: **antiquities act; exception**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
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Introduced by
Representatives Griffin: Biasiucci, Diaz, Keshel, Peña

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION EXEMPTING ARIZONA FROM FURTHER ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL LANDS UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES ACT OF 1906 WITHOUT EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION BY CONGRESS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the Antiquities Act of 1906 was intended to preserve
4 historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures and other objects
5 of historic or scientific interest. However, since its enactment,
6 presidents have repeatedly misused the privileges of this act by
7 designating enormous parcels of real property; and

8 Whereas, in 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt designated over
9 221,000 acres of land in Wyoming for the Jackson Hole National Monument,
10 which led to intense opposition in Wyoming; and

11 Whereas, in 1950, Congress granted Wyoming an exemption from the
12 Antiquities Act that states that no further extension or establishment of
13 national parks or monuments in Wyoming may be undertaken except by express
14 authorization of the Congress; and

15 Whereas, since 1906, presidents have used the Antiquities Act to
16 establish 18 national monuments in Arizona, totaling 3.7 million acres.
17 In Arizona, local, state, tribal and federal governments control over 81%
18 of the land, 50% of which is under federal management, leaving private
19 owners in Arizona only 18% of the land; and

20 Whereas, more national monuments, like the proposed Great Bend of
21 the Gila that stands to span from anywhere between 80,000 and 400,000
22 acres, continue to diminish the land available for Arizonans; and

23 Whereas, Arizona's strength lies in the value of its public and
24 private lands and the ability of the public to access them; and

25 Whereas, the increasingly egregious monument designations and
26 proposals in Arizona have negatively impacted the state's ability to
27 promote access to public recreation and to develop and maintain critical
28 water resources, manage wildlife, restore habitat and perform wildlife
29 translocations; and

30 Whereas, the subsequent closure or restriction of use of public
31 lands has significantly affected Arizona's economic well-being by limiting
32 this state's ability to maximize economic production across the state; and

33 Whereas, the biggest threat to Arizona is the intrusion and
34 overreach by the federal government onto this state's lands.

35 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of

36 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

37 1. That the United States Congress immediately enact legislation
38 that would exempt Arizona from the provisions of the Antiquities Act,
39 similar to the exemption granted to Wyoming.

40 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
41 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States and each
42 Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.