

June 30, 2016

The Honorable Dave Joyce  
1124 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Joyce:

As faith leaders in Ohio we write in support of protecting America's public lands. Our parks are where we pray and play and celebrate the gifts of God's creation. We were disappointed on your recent vote against the Antiquities Act.

Since it became law in 1906, the Antiquities Act has been used by 16 presidents – eight Republicans and eight Democrats – starting with Theodore Roosevelt. The Act authorizes the President to proclaim "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" as national monuments.

Our responsibility to care for Creation is coupled with our duty to preserve the stories of all Americans. And, we view stewardship of the land and preservation of historical monuments as important in serving as caretakers.

We view the Antiquities Act as an important tool in protecting the special pieces of God's creation where we play, pray, and learn. From historic monuments that remind us of our legacy to iconic national parks that play host to memorable family vacations, our nation's public lands are beloved embodiments of God's power and love.

We hope that you will join us to be a steward of the earth to make sure America's conservation legacy continues with the Antiquities Act.

Sincerely,

Rev. Frank Edmands, London, Ohio  
Rev. David Hill, Oberlin, Ohio  
Rev. Tom Fehr, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt, Cleveland, Ohio  
Rev. Bret Myers, Elyria, Ohio  
Rev. Michelle Torigian, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Rev. Robin Labolt, Sycamore, Ohio  
Rev. Lois Powell, Cleveland Heights, Ohio  
Rev. Adam Hange, Shaker Heights, Ohio  
Rev. Michael Small, Mt. Haven Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH  
Rev. Anthony Small, Starlight Baptist Church, East Cleveland, OH  
Rev. Walter Houston, Temple of Peace Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH  
Rev. A. Charles Ligon, New Jerusalem M.B. Church, Cleveland, OH  
Rev. George Parks, Sr., Sacrificial Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH

Rev. Wesley Reid, Lee Memorial AME Zion, Cleveland, OH  
Rev. Kenneth Thomas, Lane Metropolitan CME, Cleveland, OH  
Rev. Gregory Ivory, Sr., Christian Temple CME, Akron, OH  
Rev. Bruce B. Gibson, Phillips Chapel CME, Youngstown, OH  
Rev. Nicholas Betts, Phillips Chapel CME, Toledo, OH  
Rev. Tera Leigh, Stewart Memorial CME, Columbus, OH  
Rev. Henry F. Curtis, St. John AME Church, Cleveland, OH  
Rev. Otis J. Gordon, Jr., Warren AME Church, Toledo, OH  
Elder Carl Whittaker, Bibleway COGIC, Cincinnati, OH  
Rev. Calvin J. Hicks, Bethel AME Church, Cincinnati, OH  
Rev. Taylor Thompson, Quinn Chapel AME, Cincinnati, OH  
Rev. Donald Newberry, Sr., Lee Chapel AME, Cincinnati, OH