



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

DINA TITUS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
1ST DISTRICT NEVADA

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

February 5, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I was pleased to hear your strong vision for our country expressed last week in the State of the Union address. Due to the Republicans' unwillingness to pass meaningful legislation, I share your concern that the House is far too inactive on issues of importance to the American people. Accordingly, I am writing to urge you to utilize your executive authority, "...to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations."

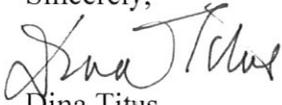
Dozens of pieces of legislation crafted to protect U.S. critical lands, many with bipartisan support and written in coordination with local governments, environmental and business organizations, and other interested stakeholders, sit unaddressed.

I believe that the Gold Butte area of Southern Nevada merits consideration for National Monument designation. This unique region sits to the north and east of Lake Mead, and across the border from the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. The region features habitat for bighorn sheep, kit fox, pinon-juniper, Joshua tree, and many threatened and endangered species. The area was also central to Native American life in the region for more than 3,000 years, and features petroglyphs and other historic artifacts dating back centuries. Thousands of visitors frequent the area, but the lack of protection and ground management threatens both early human remains and the sensitive ecosystem in the region.

I am cosponsor of legislation which would not only designate hundreds of thousands of acres for protection, but promote economic development opportunities for the nearby communities. I believe that this legislative framework is the preferred route, but for my constituents and people from across Southern Nevada who believe we must protect this national treasure, the political gamesmanship by the Republican Leaders in the House threatens these lands. I therefore respectfully urge your Administration to utilize your authorities under the Antiquities Act to protect Gold Butte, a national treasure in Southern Nevada.

I thank you again for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus
Member of Congress