

United States Senate

July 14, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

I write today regarding your ongoing review of national monument designations and your recent indication that you are “likely” to recommend leaving the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument as is. Thank you.

On behalf of the many Montanans who have contacted me in support of preserving the Upper Missouri River Breaks, I respectfully urge you to hold the line on your likely recommendation to ensure this land remains protected for all Montanans—and for future generations.

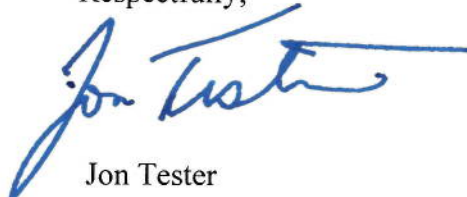
Nearly 20 years ago, after a two-year review and extensive public input, Montanans helped protect the Upper Missouri River Breaks and had a voice in how it should be managed. This region has largely remained unchanged since God made it. Protecting it as a national monument will keep it that way for our kids and grandkids while also guaranteeing clean water and rich hunting and fishing opportunities.

Today this region attracts well over 130,000 visitors per year. These visitors spend \$10 million in Montana every year and support tens of thousands of jobs.

Undoing the Upper Missouri River Breaks as a national monument would be a job-killing step backwards in our responsibility to protect Montana’s public lands—and a waste of taxpayer money to boot.

Let’s keep the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument as is. Our public lands are tied to Montana’s outdoor heritage and economy, and we cannot afford to undermine either. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your final decision.

Respectfully,



Jon Tester