



## LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

March 21, 2014

United States House  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Oppose H.R. 1459, the “Preventing New Parks” bill**

Dear Representative:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on H.R. 1459, which should be called the “Preventing New Parks” bill because it guts a president’s main park-creation authority, the Antiquities Act, at a time when—apart from a single wilderness bill that became law last week—Congress had not protected a single new acre of public land since 2009, the longest gap since World War II. With Congress refusing to advance dozens of locally-supported bills led by members from both parties that would create new national parks and other conservation areas, a vote for H.R. 1459 amounts to a vote in favor of preventing new parks from being created.

The bill is an assault on our nation’s most important conservation tool, the Antiquities Act of 1906, which Congress enacted so that presidents could move swiftly in the face of congressional inaction to protect areas that showcase America’s natural, cultural, and historic beauty. Indeed, nearly every president since, including an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, has used this authority, along the way conserving iconic sites such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Arches National Park. Nearly half of our national parks began as national monuments protected using the Antiquities Act.

This legislation ignores the reality that the American people cherish our national parks and other public lands. A November 2013 survey showed that voters by a more than 3-to-1 margin believe leaders in Washington should do more to create new parks and expand opportunities for Americans to get outdoors, instead of closing national parks, as occurred during last year’s unpopular government shutdown. Not only are the national parks a source of pride and unparalleled recreation but they are also vital economic engines for communities across the country, generating \$26.8 billion in economic activity in 2012. Rather than putting up hurdles to protecting places Americans love, the House of Representatives instead should take up legislation creating new parks and boosting funding for our land agencies so that Americans can fully enjoy our nation’s rich heritage.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 1459, the “Preventing New Parks” bill. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2014 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski  
President