



Arizona State Senate

September 30, 2015

The Honorable Sandy Moriarty, Mayor
City of Sedona
102 Roadrunner Drive
Sedona, Arizona 86336

Dear Mayor Moriarty,

Keep Sedona Beautiful has been using the Transfer of Public Lands movement as a reason they are proposing and promoting the Sedona Verde Valley Red Rock Monument. This letter is to inform you that the perception that transferring public lands to the state would encourage the sell-off of our open spaces to developers is wrong. Such a perception is not being promoted by those who are involved with this movement.

I have enclosed a Public Policy Statement ratified by unanimous consent on October 9, 2014, at the American Lands Council multi-state workshop. American Lands Council has been a leader in the Transfer of Public Lands movement.

The policy statement lays out clearly the motives and desires of those who want to fulfill the contract the Federal Government made with the state of Arizona on Statehood Day, February 14, 1912. Section 4(iv) of the policy statement says: "**Retain Public Ownership of Public Lands:** Federal public lands shall become state public lands to be managed in accordance with state and local plans;"

I have also included the booklet "*Public Lands, Better Access, Better Health, Better Productivity.*"

Western states are step-children to the United States of America. We have never been given full statehood, and we are part of "empire building" instead of being a part of building the country known as The United States of America. The Transfer of Public Lands movement is not about selling off all the public lands and putting them in the hands of developers. This movement is about protecting and using our lands with the same kind of local and state control that other eastern and Midwestern states enjoy. (However I might add that members of KSB live in homes that were developed by someone.)

Ask yourself why North Dakota, which is one of the most rural states in the nation, has a booming economy growing at five times the national average, 2.8% unemployment, a state budget surplus of over \$1 billion, and a steady demand for new workers? The reason is that North Dakota manages 90% of their state!

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The terms of statehood in the Enabling Act relating to the disposal of federal title to public lands in Arizona are the same as the terms of statehood for the disposal of federal title to public lands in North Dakota. The Federal government honored its obligation to transfer title of the public lands for local stewardship to North Dakota but not to Arizona.

The Federal government loses 27 cents for every dollar it spends on land management. The State of Arizona makes \$6.00 an acre off of our state lands. As a state, we cannot fund our schools or build or repair our roads due to the fact that the majority of our land is under Federal management.

I am asking you to please work to stop the designation of more Arizona land as Federal land, thereby adding more regulations and giving up local control.

Whatever the reasons you have for supporting this monument, I just wanted to be sure that you understood what the Transfer of Public Lands movement is, and what it isn't.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Sylvia Allen
President Pro Tempore
Legislative District 6

SA:kls

Enclosures