

# Congress of the United States

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 22, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

We write to express our frustration with the recent announcement of funding for public lands and national parks in Utah. The Department of Interior made an investment of \$1.6 billion in deferred maintenance funding for critical projects nationwide, yet Utah, with 67 percent federal landownership, received just \$7.3 million. Utah's project funding award is shockingly low compared to the State's nearly \$81.5 million contribution in federal royalties.

As you are aware from your recent visit, nearly two-thirds of Utah is public land; its five National Parks and eight National Monuments span more than 2.2 million acres, and its backlog is sizeable at \$225 million. The deferred maintenance award hardly reflects the scope of land, need for funding, or contribution to the federal government. Investments in maintenance backlog are necessary across the country, but to put our award in perspective, just 9.25 percent of the Commonwealth of Virginia is public lands, yet it will receive \$247.5 million – more than enough to cover our entire state's backlog.

We request a response explaining the formula used to calculate each state's award, and the extent to which percent of public lands contributed to the award amount. As the nation's second highest public lands state by percentile, Utah's contributions to the federal government and outdoor recreation must more seriously be considered in future deferred maintenance funding allocations.

Thank you for consideration. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



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Mitt Romney  
United States Senator



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Mike Lee  
United States Senator



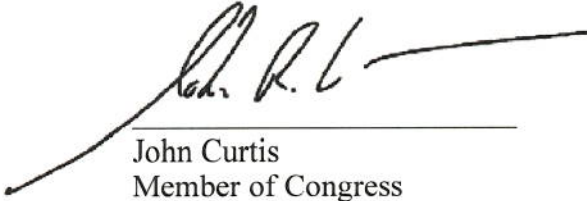
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Blake Moore  
Member of Congress



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Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



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John Curtis  
Member of Congress



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Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress