

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary of the Interior
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Petition to remove the nominated parcels in Grand County, Utah from the BLM Utah September 2020 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Dear Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt,

The undersigned individuals from across Utah, the country and the world, oppose the proposed Utah September 2020 oil and gas lease sale. We have a long term relationship with the public lands surrounding Moab, Utah. We are awed by the majesty of these lands and rely on Moab's incredible landscapes to rejuvenate and inspire us. We visit as often as we can, and some of us are lucky enough to live there—and have for many for generations.

We are alarmed by the process through which oil and gas leasing decisions are being made on our public lands. We understand that law requires BLM lands to be managed for multiple-use. We further understand that a rigorous process is required to determine if those lands are appropriate for oil and gas leasing. However, it is clear that this process has utterly failed. It is bad land management, bad business, and bad public relations to allow an individual oil and gas speculator to nominate over 84,000 acres for leasing in Grand County, and threaten the future of this prosperous community.

Oil and gas leasing on these lands directly threatens Moab's growing economy. The recreation economy depends on healthy landscapes. Industrial development and oil and gas related traffic will degrade the recreation experience and fundamentally damage the Moab brand.

Grand County, the home of Moab, Utah, is a world class recreation destination, and as such the region has seen steady economic growth for the past 40 years. Our love of the region and desire to visit and live there has translated directly into jobs and tax receipts that have brought prosperity to the Moab region. Both newcomers and long time Moab families have many options for making a good living. Entrepreneurship is thriving and companies of all types are hiring managers for longterm positions with good salaries.

We urge you to cancel the upcoming auction for these parcels and instead work to build a land management system that meets 21st century needs and realities.

Cc: Utah Governor Gary Herbert