

*Proposal for*

## **National Monument Preservation and State Sovereignty Act**

**Whereas**, a reclassification of some national monuments as National Parks or their return to state jurisdiction could provide more appropriate and effective management structures;

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

### **Section 1: Short Title**

This Act may be cited as the "OURLAND Act".

### **Section 2: Findings and Purpose**

#### (a) Findings

Congress finds that the current system of managing national monuments could benefit from a review process that allows for greater public participation and oversight.

#### (b) Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to allow for Congress to take responsibility for the designation of federal land back from the executive and return land to the states in a clear and transparent process as deemed appropriate to ensure that states can balance their growth with the preservation of our natural areas as sources of pride, education, and enjoyment for all Americans.

### **Section 3: Definitions**

(a) "National Monument" shall mean any monument or site designated as such under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431-433).

(b) "State" shall mean any of the several states of the United States.

### **Section 4: Congressional Review of National Monuments**

(a) Within one year of the enactment of this Act, Congress shall vote on each National Monument to determine whether such monument shall be reclassified as a National Park or returned to the jurisdiction of the State in which it is located.

(b) In making its determination under subsection (a), the Congress shall consider the following factors:

- (i) The historical, cultural, and natural significance of the National Monument;
- (ii) The economic impact of reclassifying the National Monument as a National Park or returning it to the State;
- (iii) The preferences of the residents of the State in which the National Monument is located;
- (iv) The potential environmental impact of reclassification or return.

(c) If the Congress votes to reclassify a National Monument as a National Park, such monument shall be managed by the National Park Service in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

(d) If the Congress votes to return a National Monument to the jurisdiction of a State, the State shall assume responsibility for the management and preservation of the monument, subject to any conditions imposed by the Congress.

(e) Upon completion of this process, no land may be declared a National Monument by executive power. All natural recreation areas must be voted on to become National Parks or returned to State control.



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### **Section 5: Funding**

The Congress shall provide such sums as may be necessary to implement this Act.

### **Section 6: Effective Date**

This Act shall take effect immediately upon its enactment.

### **Section 7: Severability**

If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

### **Section 8: Repeals**

Any provisions of existing laws or regulations that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

### **Section 9: Implementation**

The Congress shall be responsible for enacting the provisions of this Act.