**RESOLUTION OPPOSING DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS RESTRICTING PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE**

WHEREAS, under the 1906 Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities, presidents can unilaterally designate national monuments, by administrative fiat, without any input or involvement of the American public, community leaders, or elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act was enacted before the creation of federal land management laws, and was intended to be used in emergency situations to protect historic artifacts, and sites of scientific value, from "imminent threat" which in all cases should be confined to the smallest area necessary; and

WHEREAS, since its establishment 118 years ago, the Antiquities Act has been misused for political purposes by presidents with large scale designations intended to limit specific uses, activities, or access to vast areas of public lands; allowing unfettered governmental control and hindering the productive use of those lands; and

WHEREAS monument designations appear to be nothing more than another attempt at a federal land grabs driven by political motivation, outside interests; and

WHEREAS, creating additional federal lands and by placing public lands into permanent conservation status causes dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states; and

WHEREAS many of New Mexico's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize federal lands and their resources, including the oil and gas industry, livestock grazing, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS these industries are important components of the New Mexico economy and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of it’s citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) as follows:

1. NMACD opposes the designation of lands, whether private lands or government lands, in New Mexico as national monuments, wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
2. NMACD opposes any federal rulemaking, by the Bureau of Land Management, or any federal agency, which promotes any non-tangible status goals on public lands as a valid multiple use for those lands.
3. NMACD supports the continued private ownership of land in New Mexico, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.