



Cochise County Board of Supervisors

Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

PATRICK G. CALL
Chairman
District 1

JAMES E. VLAHOVICH
County Administrator

ANN ENGLISH
Vice-Chairman
District 2

ARLETHE G. RIOS
Clerk of the Board

RICHARD R. SEARLE
Supervisor
District 3

July 28, 2015

Senator Jeff Flake
2200 East Camelback Road
Suite 120
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Dear Senator Flake,

On behalf of the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce and its member businesses, I am writing to ask you to introduce legislation to designate Chiricahua National Monument as a National Park. We believe such a designation would help to strengthen the local and regional economies through area tourism.

A National Park designation would significantly raise the profile of Cochise County, both nationally and internationally, drawing additional visitors to the region. Statistics show that during 2013, the National Park Service recorded more than 63 million visitors at its National Park sites, compared to 18.66 million who visited National Monuments. As you are aware, tourism plays a large role in helping to sustain the economies of communities throughout the County. The Chamber of Commerce continuously strives to attract new and repeat visitors to the area in order to help our local businesses. We believe this designation, and its potential to increase tourist numbers, will make an important contribution toward that ongoing goal, since Chiricahua visitors are likely to travel to other areas of the County.

It is our understanding that Chiricahua National Monument is already staffed by the National Park Service, and there would be no significant budgetary impact, should this designation be approved. Thanks to its unique geological features and outstanding natural beauty, the Chamber of Commerce believes Chiricahua National Monument has the necessary criteria to receive a National Park designation.

We therefore respectfully request you introduce the necessary legislation required to move this highly beneficial process forward.

Sincerely,

Patrick G. Call
Chairman

1415 Melody Lane, Building G
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
520-432-9200
520-432-5016 fax
board@cochise.az.gov