



Cochise County Board of Supervisors

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KIM LEMONS
Clerk of the Board

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Mark Kelly
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Suite B40B
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Mark Kelly,

The Cochise County Board of Supervisors is writing in support of legislation to designate Chiricahua National Monument as a National Park. We strongly 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 visitors to the region. In a report, "Economic Impacts of National Monuments Redesignated National Parks," the independent, non-profit research organization Headwater Economics found that eight National Monuments designated as National Parks experienced an average 21 percent increase in visitors in the five years after designation. Additionally, total recreation visits in National Parks grew by 49 percent between 2000 and 2016, compared to a decrease of three percent in National Monuments.

Because of its unique geographical features and outstanding natural beauty, Chiricahua National Monument is a one-of-a-kind destination for Arizona tourism. Tourism is Arizona's number one industry and it plays a significant role in helping sustain the economies of communities throughout rural Cochise County. The Cochise County Tourism Council continuously works to attract new and repeat visitors to the region, and we believe this designation will make an important contribution to our ongoing goal.

The Cochise County Board of Supervisors thanks you for introducing a bill to designate Chiricahua National Monument as a National Park and we enthusiastically enlist our support in moving this highly beneficial process forward.

Sincerely,

Ann English
Chairman (District 2)

Peggy Judd
Vice-Chairman (District 3)

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Supervisor (District 1)

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