



October 31, 2024

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20240
Submitted Electronically via: blm_az_asdo_bnik_mac@blm.gov

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The Arizona Farm Bureau Federation and Utah Farm Bureau Federation write to jointly recommend Chris Heaton for a position on the Monument Advisory Committee of the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

The recently designated national monument, while located in Arizona, significantly impacts communities and land users across state lines. Due to the unique geography created by the Grand Canyon, many who utilize lands on the Arizona Strip actually reside in Utah, which borders the monument to the north. Chris Heaton is exceptionally well-suited for the advisory committee due to his strong connections with grazers who use the Arizona Strip but live in Utah. His appointment would ensure representation for affected ranchers, regardless of their state of residence. Chris' valuable experience and understanding of the cross-border dynamics make him an ideal candidate to bridge the interests of both states and provide crucial insights to the committee.

Chris' interest in the land included in the national monument is deep. His ancestors were some of the first to develop water and graze cattle in the region. He has continued this tradition with his family as a sixth-generation rancher on the Arizona Strip. As a landowner within the monument, and because of the work and sacrifice of his ancestors, Chris shares the connection and respect that Native Americans have for this area.

Chris has proven to be a leader and trusted voice through his service to his community. He has gained this trust through years of experience and service. He currently serves his community on the Kanab City Council, as a volunteer at his church, and is a valued board member of the Kane County Utah Farm Bureau and a member of the Arizona Farm Bureau. As a businessman in the area, Chris knows and understands the issues unique to this part of the country. As an elected leader in his community with an education in political science, he also understands what it takes to work with diverse groups to solve these issues.

As a member-leader in Farm Bureau, Chris has demonstrated himself to be knowledgeable, hardworking, and practical. His nomination has garnered support from both the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation and the Utah Farm Bureau Federation, as well as the Arizona Public Lands Council, underscoring his ability to represent interests across state lines.

Thank you for your consideration of Chris Heaton for a position on the Monument Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stefanie A. Smallhouse".

Stefanie Smallhouse
President
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "ValJay Rigby".

ValJay Rigby
President
Utah Farm Bureau Federation