

Governor Lombardo Statement on Avi Kwa Ame Designation

CARSON CITY, NV – As President Biden designates Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument today, Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo released the following statement this morning:

"Since I took office, the Biden White House has not consulted with my administration about any of the details of the proposed Avi Kwa Ame national monument which, given the size of the proposal, seems badly out of step. Upon learning that the President was considering unilateral action, I reached out to the White House to raise several concerns, citing the potential for terminal disruption of rare earth mineral mining projects and long-planned, bi-partisan economic development efforts. While I'm still waiting for a response, I'm not surprised. This kind of 'Washington Knows Best' policy might win plaudits from unaccountable special interests, but it's going to cost our state jobs and economic opportunity – all while making land more expensive and more difficult to develop for affordable housing and critical infrastructure projects. The federal confiscation of 506,814 acres of Nevada land is a historic mistake that will cost Nevadans for generations to come."

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Cortez Masto Celebrates Designation of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

Washington, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) joined the official designation of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument by President Joe Biden at a celebration at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"Avi Kwa Ame is a sacred and stunning landscape, and I'm thrilled to celebrate its official designation with the Tribal nations and conservation advocates who helped make this happen," **said Senator Cortez Masto.** "Nevada's newest National Monument is an important step for preserving our cultural heritage, honoring sacred Tribal sites, and helping our families enjoy the great outdoors."

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Nevada Conservation League Avi Kwa Ame Campaign Manager Craig Bakerjian released the following statement:

We thank the Biden administration for taking a major step toward fulfilling the promise to conserve and restore our country's lands and waters to address the climate crisis. We are also grateful to Secretary Haaland, Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen and Representatives Titus and Lee for their efforts to help protect Avi Kwa Ame in southern Nevada.

Today, by designating Avi Kwa Ame National Monument, we can finally honor tribes who hold this place sacred to them and have worked diligently and collaboratively to protect it. We can also protect the home of some of the most stunning, biologically diverse land that is a habitat to the endangered desert tortoise, desert bighorn sheep, and some of the oldest, largest Joshua trees on the planet, while providing a boost to Nevada's outdoor recreation economy.

The protection of Avi Kwa Ame enjoys broad support from conservationists, recreationists, businesses, and gateway communities to protect Avi Kwa Ame and is a testament to the hard work of local leaders and groups, who have worked in collaboration to preserve this vital part of our history and protect it from industrial development proposals.

Today, we celebrate this achievement for our public lands, and tomorrow, we will continue our work with tribes, conservationists, and local communities to protect the natural landscapes that make Nevada home. We hope the President will build on this momentum to preserve vital places for similar communities all across the country.”

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Rosen Celebrates Designation of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument in Nevada

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV) applauded the designation of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. Senator Rosen was present at an event at the Department of the Interior for the White House’s Conservation in Action Summit, where the President signed a proclamation establishing the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.

“Today’s designation will preserve and protect an area of great cultural significance to Tribal nations for generations to come,” **said Senator Rosen**. “This sacred land is rich with natural beauty, diverse wildlife, and immense ecological importance. As a firm and strong supporter of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument, it was an honor to join so many Nevadans to celebrate the permanent protection of this land.”

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Secretary Haaland Applauds President Biden’s Designation of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument in Nevada

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland today applauded President Biden’s designation of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument in southern Nevada. Located at the confluence of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, the national monument will protect innumerable objects of historic and scientific interest, including its namesake Avi Kwa Ame – or Spirit Mountain – and the surrounding arid valleys and mountain ranges that are historically important and sacred places for several Tribal Nations.

“Avi Kwa Ame holds deep spiritual, sacred and historic significance to the Native people who have lived on these lands for generations. I am grateful to President Biden for taking this important step in recognition of the decades of advocacy from Tribes and the scientific community, who are eager to protect the objects within its boundaries,” **said Secretary Haaland**. “Together with Tribal leaders, outdoor enthusiasts, local elected officials, and other stakeholders, we will manage this new monument for the benefit of current and future generations.”