

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: **NEW POLL: REP. PEARCE'S CONSTITUENTS IN NM-02 WANT PUBLIC LANDS PROTECTED**

Congressman Steve Pearce's constituents in New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District care deeply about protecting public lands and are overwhelmingly opposed to legislation that would threaten national monument protections by giving presidents more power to revoke their status as protected public lands. Pearce can improve his strong favorability in the district by joining his constituents in opposition to the proposed public lands legislation, but risks a major backlash if he ignores his constituents' strong stance on public lands issues.

Key findings from Global Strategy Group's recent poll of 400 likely 2018 general election voters in New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District are as follows:

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **Constituents disagree with President Trump's decision to remove protections for two national monuments in Utah.** By a 26-point margin, constituents oppose Trump's recent executive orders to reduce the size of the two monuments by roughly two million acres and remove protections against development, mining, and drilling (37% support/63% oppose, including 47% who strongly oppose). Over four in ten are familiar with and favorable to both Utah monuments (Grand Staircase-Escalante: 47% familiar, 41% favorable/6% unfavorable and Bears Ears: 47% familiar, 41% favorable/6% unfavorable).
- **Constituents want Congress to protect national monuments.** Constituents oppose proposed legislation that would reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments and give presidents the power to remove protections for public lands with the stroke of a pen by a nearly two-to-one margin (33% support/63% oppose). Again, opposition is intense with 51% strongly opposed. And nearly two-thirds (64%) would be willing to take action to stop these laws from passing, including posting on social media, signing a petition, or contacting an elected official.
- **Rep. Pearce can boost his standing among constituents by taking actions to protect public lands.** Roughly three-quarters (73%) of constituents would have a more favorable opinion of Pearce if he supports laws that help the federal government preserve public lands with national monument protections, like the Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, and 67% would be more favorable towards Pearce if he opposes laws that allow a president to unilaterally remove protections on public lands without congressional approval.
- **Pearce stands to take a strong hit to his personal popularity if he doesn't side with his constituents on public lands issues.** Pearce is currently very well-liked (58% favorable/31% unfavorable) but after constituents hear simulated advertising about Pearce having voted to weaken public lands protections and considering another vote that would further threaten public lands, his favorability moves slightly underwater (44% favorable/48% unfavorable).

ABOUT THIS POLL: Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 400 likely general election voters in New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District from January 26 to 30, 2018. The results of this survey have a margin of error of +/-4.9%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the expected electorate are properly represented based on historical turnout.