

Erin Nelson

From: Robin Patten <robinspatten@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2023 7:46 PM
To: Office
Subject: Comments on Petition to Disconnect from the Town of Bluff

To the Mayor and Town Council of Bluff,

I'm writing in regard to the Petition to Disconnect 9514 acres from the town of Bluff, submitted by Attorney Baird in May 2023. I support the denial of this disconnect and hope the Town of Bluff will work to keep those lands within the Town.

What I heard the night of the Town Meeting regarding this issue is that the reason so much land is part of the disconnect is so that Mr. Baird can win his case for his client, the Actons. The Disconnection Properties include state owned SITLA land, Federal BLM land, and private land of the Episcopal Mission. As I understand it, the Acton land is a small island that could not disconnect without incorporating these other properties: one landowner is behind the decimation of Bluff Town property, fueled by the plans of Mr. Baird that apparently took place without any communication with Bluff. That the Mission was included in this power play without being informed, shows how little regard Mr. Baird, the State, and the Feds have for the residents of this area. The Mission is part of the community and wants to stay part of this community. That the State of Utah and the BLM would participate in this deceitful travesty is shocking.

This alone makes it clear this disconnect should not happen. That land should stay within the Town of Bluff. Bluff and its residents care about the land and its community, unlike the Disconnection Property landowners who denigrate us with such comments as the infamous "screaming activists" quote. On top of that is the fact that the aquifer is under that land. The aquifer supplies the town and Mission with water, as well as an extended community of surrounding residents such as the Diné on the neighboring Navajo Tribal lands. Water is a vital resource, and the Town will take care of it. The landowners of the Disconnection Properties apparently have little regard for Bluff or other local residents, and I do not believe they can be trusted to care for the land's resources in a way that will benefit all.

In the end this is unkind money and power fighting community and compassion. I would like to think community and compassion could win. We must at least try.

Sincerely,

Robin Patten

11 N. Mesa View Lane,
Bluff, UT 84512

~~~~

Writer, Teacher, Naturalist  
John Burroughs Nature Essay Award Winner  
+1-406-551-0279

[robinspatten@gmail.com](mailto:robinspatten@gmail.com)  
[@robinspatten](#)  
[www.robinpatten.com](http://www.robinpatten.com)