

# The Times-Independent

*Serving Moab and Southeast Utah Since 1896*

Letter To The Editor

| January 23, 2024

## **More on Kane Creek: It's time to 'stand up for what Moab deserves'**

Editor,

This letter is meant to serve as an outcry from our beloved small community regarding not only the proposed Kane Creek development — but the precedent it will set and the implications it will have on Moab's future.

Moab once was a quieter town, a place to retreat and get away from the hustle and bustle of the “real world.” It was more affordable to live here, houses were reasonably priced and few people in the U.S. even knew it existed.



Heavy equipment operators move dirt at the controversial development on Kane Creek Boulevard.  
Photo by Doug McMurdo

With its wide open spaces, one could disappear into the desert into complete silence, embracing the wilderness that still exists within our country. Now, it's getting harder and harder to find that quiet as secret local hikes are exposed, more and more hotels are built and locals are subjected to the roaring of off-road vehicles.

Being a small town, a vibrant community forms here. We come together to help those in need, we allow others to be themselves without judgment and we speak out when things like this development pose major negative impacts on our lives.

Going to the store, you almost always see someone you know and that feeling of inclusion and connection is one of the many reasons I choose to call Moab my home.

As we progress and evolve as human beings, I think it is prudent to learn from past mistakes instead of repeating them. I have lived in multiple tourist towns in the Southwest and have witnessed them grow too big and too expensive for people like me to live comfortably (myself being a 30-something single outdoor enthusiast who lives on a modest income).

I hope we can learn from those towns and instead of falling prey to developers and overnight rentals, stand up for what Moab deserves while serving as an example for future towns landing in our position.

Imagine people saying. "Look what Moab did!" We deserve to maintain our town's beauty, not deplete its resources, respect wildlife, avoid polluting our river, embrace and house our locals, and keep our community intact instead of being torn apart by money and greed.

By allowing more condos and overnight rentals to be built, we are surrendering to what our country has become: a place for the rich to thrive and for everyone else to scrape by. If I can do anything at all to help fight this, I will do it. And I hope you will too.

— Emily Sukiennik

Moab