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February 23rd, 2019

Grand Canyon Protection Act of 2019

Thanks to everyone who made the trip. I want to take a second to say thanks to the Park Service rangers who plowed the roads and made it possible for us to be here today. I'm sure now that the shutdown is over, they're happy to get back to the real work of shoveling snow for members of Congress on the weekend.

The Grand Canyon's been here for a long time. So have the people who call this land home. Generations from all over the world have visited here. They love the Grand Canyon. They don't want to see it polluted or sold off or changed. We're here because many people who love the Grand Canyon as much as we do think it's permanently protected, and it's not.

We're here to make it clear what's at stake, and we're here to take action. When I get back to Washington, I'm introducing the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act. It makes the current mining moratorium around Grand Canyon National Park permanent. It takes the crown jewel of this state, and our country, out of political hands once and for all. It says no more debate. Keep the Canyon great.

This is especially important now that the Grand Canyon Trust just put out a new report on how uranium mining is hurting this environment. The bottom line is that mining uranium near the Grand Canyon does more harm than good, it doesn't serve the public interest, and we need to draw the line here. Anyone who cares about the Grand Canyon should read this report and share it with friends.

I don't want to take too much of everyone's time. We're all here because we support the Grand Canyon. We love our national parks and public lands. We don't want special interests deciding the fate of our environment. Communities live here. Millions of people rely on Colorado River water. The Grand Canyon is a big part of the American story. This land is not for sale. We need to protect it. Thank you all for coming, thanks for being such great friends and allies, and let's go get this done.