

**Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act**  
**Comments by Sarana Riggs**  
**February 23, 2019**

*Presented on behalf of Haul No!, the Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Wilderness Society, National Parks Conservation Association, Earth Justice, and Western Mining Action Project.*

Ya'ah'teeh, I'm from the Dine' Nation, my name is Sarana Riggs, we welcome you all to this place that we call home. We would like to thank Congressman Grijalva, for bringing all of us together today to talk about a very important issue, uranium mining.

Looking around us today, we see this vast beauty of grandeur and wonderment here at the Grand Canyon. And to many of us who visit, live and work here, we see beyond that, within our senses we hear the Canyon — the wind, the birds, and in some extremely quiet places, the water. In our spirit, we feel something intangible all around us and it takes us to some unconscious level of peace, serenity, and calmness. But in this deep down sense of security, there is something that we do not see, smell, taste, or hear and that is threat of uranium mining.

This toxic legacy is present all around us. From the Orphan Mine, Canyon Mine, the mines on the North Rim, and the hundreds of abandoned mines on the Navajo Nation. We know how uranium affects the land, air, and waterways, so why should we continue to allow the poisoning of the places we have left?

A united coalition of tribes, local communities, regional and national organizations such as Haul No, Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, National Parks Conservation Association, and many others have been advocating for a permanent solution to end uranium mining. This strong alliance was successful in getting the temporary ban on new claims in 2012. Now we are ready to make it permanent.

With Congressman Grijalva's help, now is the time to create a new legacy, one that is rooted on cultural respect, preservation, awareness, and education. Let's support the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act and make the next 100 years a better place.