

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-74

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING SECRETARY OF INTERIOR SALAZAR'S PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION ACRES OF FEDERAL LANDS SURROUNDING GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK FROM URANIUM MINING FOR 20 YEARS.

WHEREAS, Grand Canyon National Park, a World Heritage Site located 85 miles northwest of the city of Flagstaff, Arizona, is an integral part of the northern Arizona landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon is one of the most visually powerful landscapes in the world with its plunging depths; temple-like buttes; and vast, multi-hued, labyrinthine topography; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon contains a record of three of the four eras of geological time, a rich and diverse fossil record, a wide variety of geologic features and rock types, and numerous caves containing extensive and significant geological, paleontological, archeological and biological resources; and

WHEREAS, the tremendous biological diversity of Grand Canyon National Park can be attributed to the presence of five of the seven life zones and three of the four desert types in North America; and

WHEREAS, Grand Canyon National Park attracts over five million visitors per year who contribute significantly to the Flagstaff economy; and

WHEREAS, history is replete with examples of uranium mines on federal public lands in and around Grand National Park, which have left a legacy of health problems for miners and contamination to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Orphan Mine in Grand Canyon National Park continues to leach radioactive waste into Horn Creek; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, more than 2,000 uranium mining claims have been filed in the Tusayan Ranger district alone, the majority located within ten miles of Grand Canyon National Park; and

WHEREAS, uranium mining on federal public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park risks contamination of groundwater, springs, and ultimately the Colorado River; and

WHEREAS, uranium mining on federal public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park will industrialize the landscape with roads, power lines, mining and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the trucks from uranium mines on the South Rim of Grand Canyon will travel through Flagstaff on their route to the mill in Blanding, Utah because they are not permitted to travel east through Grand Canyon National Park; and

WHEREAS, uranium mining on federal public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park will damage wildlife habitat both within and outside of Grand Canyon National Park; and

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2009, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar issued a two-year segregation order limiting new mining claims on nearly one million acres of federal public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park; and

WHEREAS, since issuing the segregation order in 2009, the Department of Interior has been evaluating whether to withdraw the lands from mining for an additional 20 years;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the Flagstaff City Council oppose further uranium development on lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park because such mining activity will almost certainly have a detrimental effect on the economic well-being of the City of Flagstaff; and

SECTION 2. That the Flagstaff City Council supports Secretary of Interior Salazar's proposal to withdraw the lands subject to his current segregation order for 20 years.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council and approved by the Mayor of the City of Flagstaff this _____ day of _____, 2010.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY