



TO Interested Parties

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RE: Arizona Voters' Views of Public Lands Near the Grand Canyon

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The bipartisan research team of Public Opinion Strategies (R) and Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D) recently completed a survey of voters throughout Arizona to assess their views of mining on public lands near the Grand Canyon National Park.¹

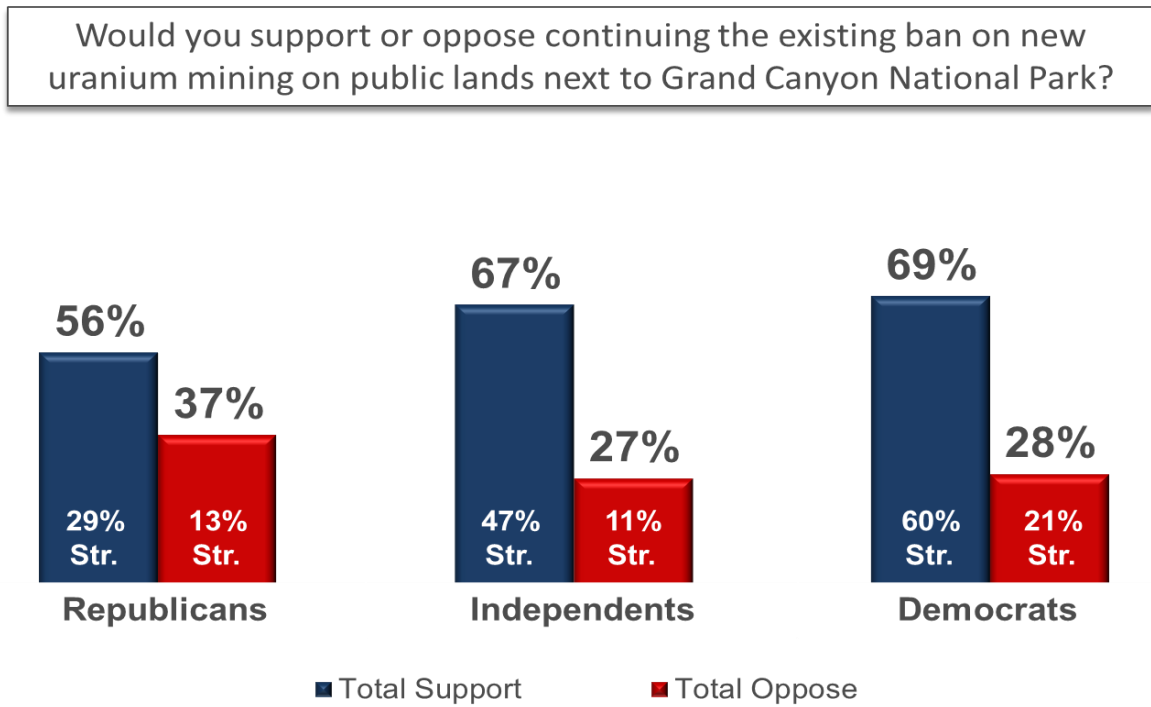
The statewide study found that voters support continuing the existing ban on uranium mining, including after an exchange of pro and con statements on this policy. The survey recorded the strongest sense since 2009 that "more needs to be done" to conserve lands and waters around the Grand Canyon, and an overwhelming view that outdoor recreation and tourism are more important to the economic future of Arizona than mining. In fact, voters almost universally believe that keeping lands and water healthy in the state is critical both to the economy and to quality of life.

Key findings include:

- **Three-in-five voters want to continue the existing ban on new uranium mining on public lands next to Grand Canyon National Park.** Fully 63 percent indicate support for continuing the current ban – twice as many as say they would oppose continuing with it (31 percent). The intensity of support for the ban is nearly three times as strong as the intensity of opposition as well (45 percent strongly support continuing with the existing ban, while only 16 percent strongly oppose it).

¹ **Methodology:** From August 8-13, 2018, FM3 and Public Opinion Strategies completed 600 live telephone interviews (on both landlines and cell phones) with registered voters throughout Arizona. The sample was drawn proportionally throughout the state and is demographically representative of the electorate. The margin of sampling error for the study is +/-4.0% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.

Majorities of voters across the political spectrum indicate support for continuing the existing ban as shown in the following graph:



Support is evident throughout the state – among urban residents (67 percent support), suburbanites (61 percent) and small town/rural voters (62 percent). There is also significant support among hunters (54 percent), anglers (59 percent), and those who have visited national public lands other than national parks in the last year (68 percent support). Even among those who say mining is more important to Arizona’s economic future than outdoor recreation, a 57-percent majority supports continuing the ban on new mining .

- **One-in-three Arizonans report hearing about uranium mining on public lands around the Grand Canyon.** This is the greatest level of recall of the issue recorded in three statewide surveys since 2009, an increase of 12 points in that time. Those who have heard about about uranium mining in this area are even more supportive of continuing the existing ban (67 percent support, 32 percent oppose).
- **After hearing some neutral background on how the existing ban came to be, Arizona voters support it more intensely.** Recognizing that not all respondents are familiar with these issues, a brief neutral explanation was provided to respondents after asking their initial views of the new mining ban:

“As you may know, a temporary, twenty-year halt to new uranium mining was put in place on public lands located next to Grand Canyon National Park in order to study the impacts of previous uranium mining and evaluate the effect of new mines on drinking water, springs, and

streams. Knowing that, would you support or oppose continuing the existing ban on new uranium mining on public lands next to Grand Canyon National Park?"

Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) support the existing ban being continued after hearing this, with a majority (54 percent) supporting it strongly. Only 24 percent oppose continuing the ban (12 percent strongly).

- **Importantly, voters continue to overwhelmingly side with supporters of the ban after hearing viewpoints both for and against it.** As the following table illustrates, nearly two-thirds of state voters agree more with a statement from supporters of the ban than one from opponents:

Supporters of continuing the existing ban on new uranium mines say that dozens of these mines could be developed near the Grand Canyon, affecting the six million people who visit each year, contributing over nine hundred million dollars to our economy and supporting nine thousand jobs. Additionally, leaks from the mines could threaten drinking water for local communities, as well as harming fish and wildlife

65%

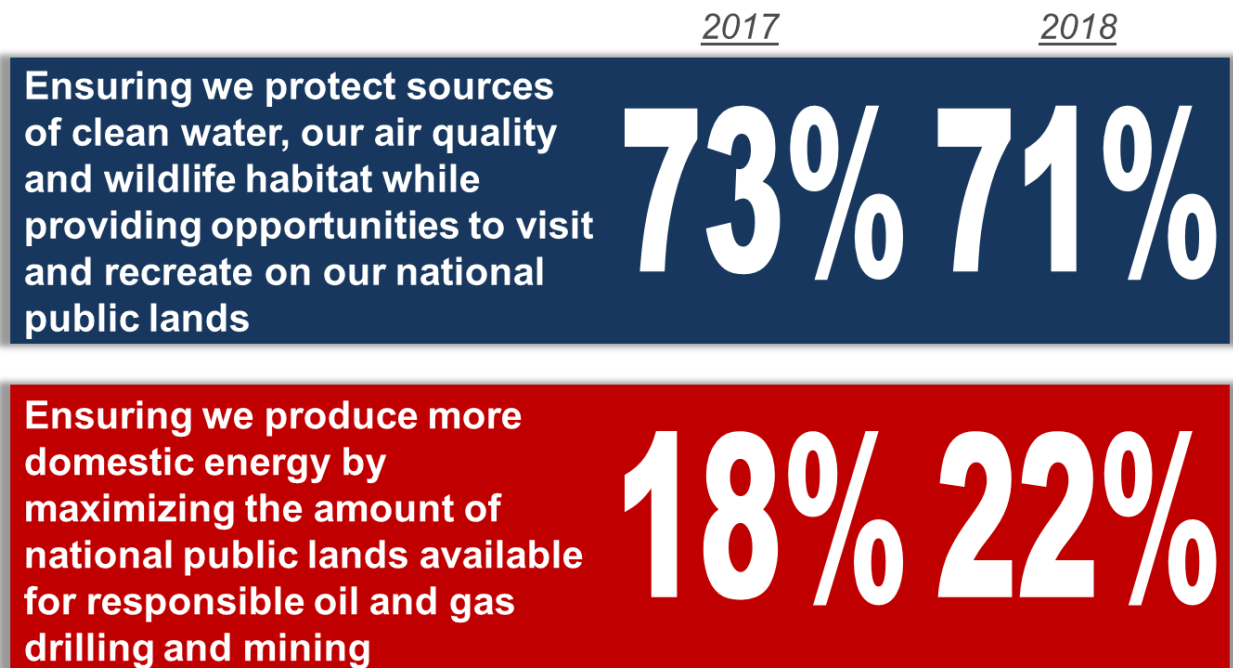
Opponents of continuing the existing ban on new uranium mines say that domestically mined uranium is critical to our national security, economic growth and generating electricity from nuclear power. Locking up millions of acres of public lands from mining will stifle job creation, decimate local economies and endanger national security

29%

- **Arizona voters look positively on an elected official who opts for continuing the existing mining ban.** A plurality of 48 percent say they would have a more favorable opinion of an elected official who supports continuing the existing ban, while only 13 percent would have a less favorable opinion – greater than a three-to-one margin. Another 36 percent say it would make no difference in their impression.
- **More broadly, a majority of Arizona voters now say that "more needs to be done" to protect the air, land and water around the Grand Canyon National Park - a marked increase since 2009.** Today, 52 percent of Arizona voters say that more needs to be done to protect the areas around the park, up from 43 percent in 2009 and 48 percent in 2016. The proportion saying more needs to be done is significantly higher than those saying that "enough is being done" (39 percent), while a mere two percent believe that "too much is being done" to protect the lands and waters around the National Park.

- **Support for continuing the mining ban on public lands near the Grand Canyon is likely rooted in both economic and personal connections to this issue.** The survey also found that...
 - By greater than a three-to-one margin, Arizona voters say that outdoor recreation and visitors to national parks and other public lands are more important to the future of the Arizona economy than is mining of uranium and other minerals (73 percent and 21 percent, respectively);
 - 90 percent of Arizonans say that they have visited Grand Canyon National Park in the past, and a majority (56 percent) say they visited a national park in the last year alone;
 - 96 percent agree that “keeping our public lands and waters healthy both benefits our economy and quality of life here in Arizona;”
 - 86 percent say that “protecting public lands, water and wildlife in Arizona is critical to keeping the state’s economy strong;” and
 - By greater than a three-to-one margin, Arizona voters have consistently said that when it comes to national public lands in Arizona they want more emphasis placed on the land’s conservation and recreation value than on energy production, as seen in the following graph:

More emphasis should be placed on...



- **In conclusion, Arizonans consistently support continuation of the existing ban on new mining on public lands outside of Grand Canyon National Park.** This support does not waver as they hear more, even from critics of the ban. Support is likely grounded in a growing sense that more needs to be done to protect these areas near the Grand Canyon, a personal connection to the National Park, and a belief that keeping public lands and waters healthy is beneficial to Arizona’s economy.