

**Coconino County Board of Supervisors • Arizona Trail Association •  
Grand Canyon Trust • Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter • The Wilderness  
Society • Chispa Arizona • HECHO • Arizona Wildlife Federation • Trout  
Unlimited • Center for Biological Diversity • Kahtoola • League of Conservation  
Voters • Arizona Faith Network**

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Thornberry,

We are a community that cares deeply about the long-term protection of the Grand Canyon watershed from the inherent risks of uranium mining. We write to convey the importance of this issue and to urge the retention of the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act.

The Act would permanently ban uranium mining on federal lands that include portions of the Kaibab National Forest, including the Red Butte Traditional Cultural Property, as well as Bureau of Land Management lands, including portions of the Kanab Creek drainage. This area is a significant portion of the Grand Canyon's watershed, culturally significant for the Indigenous Tribes of the region, encompasses important wildlife habitat and migration corridors, and provides the backbone of Arizona's outdoor recreation economy.

Since time immemorial, the Grand Canyon region has been called home by at least eleven Native American Tribes. The Havasupai Tribe, which today still resides in the remote village of Supai beneath the rims of the Grand Canyon, relies on the blue-green waters of Havasu Creek. The name Havasupai—or Havasu 'Baaja—means "people of the blue-green water." Havasu Creek is the Tribe's only water source, as well as the community's economic driver—attracting tourists from around the world. Havasu Creek flows from a regional aquifer in the Redwall Limestone called the Redwall Muav Aquifer, which is endangered by potential uranium mining beyond the canyon's rims.

The Redwall Muav aquifer and other aquifers in the region sustain Grand Canyon National Park and countless seeps and springs inside the Grand Canyon that serve as the life source for delicate ecosystems and drinking water for whitewater rafters, hikers, and others visiting the canyon's interior.

There is a particularly hefty obstacle to protecting these water sources from toxic operations like mining: the various speeds, directions, and connectivity of groundwater flow adjacent to the Grand Canyon are not well understood. This vital information is difficult to ascertain due to the highly fractured geology of the region, which can allow water to travel through even the most solid and otherwise impermeable of rock layers. Groundwater researchers have described the geology of the region as akin to a system of pipes, sometimes flowing in many directions from one location and where groundwater might travel in a matter of hours or days, or in some cases take decades or more to reach another aquifer or to emerge as surface water. One study on the Grand Canyon's north rim showed that water flowing through sinkholes on the rim traveled as far as 22 miles horizontally and 6,000 vertical feet in less than one month. Another recent study on the south rim has turned up evidence of groundwater mixing between shallower and deeper aquifers, indicating unknown connections in between.

A temporary ban was established by the Department of Interior in 2012 due to these hydrogeologic unknowns and the risks uranium mining poses to a region that is critically important to many Native American Tribes, millions of National Park visitors, and the local economies that depend on tourism and outdoor recreation. Since then, community-wide support for a permanent mining ban has grown. In 2019, our community of Tribal and local governments, the National Congress of American Indians, the Intertribal Council of Arizona, sporting groups, businesses, faith groups, NGOs, and others advocated for the passage of the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act, a bill that would simply make the existing temporary ban permanent. That bill passed the House in late 2019 and was most recently passed as an amendment in the House version of the NDAA.

We ask that you work to assure the Grand Canyon provision remains in the final version of the bill that goes to President Trump's desk for signature. For your reference, we've also enclosed a handful of resolutions from Tribal and local governments in support of the permanent mining ban around the Grand Canyon.

With gratitude,

Liz Archuleta  
Chair  
Coconino County Board of Supervisors  
Flagstaff, AZ

Amber Reimondo  
Energy Program Director  
Grand Canyon Trust  
Flagstaff, AZ

Mike Quigley  
Arizona State Director  
The Wilderness Society  
Tucson, AZ

Sandy Bahr  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter  
Phoenix, AZ

Laura Dent  
Executive Director  
Chispa Arizona  
Tucson, AZ

Scott Garlid  
Executive Director  
Arizona Wildlife Federation  
Phoenix, AZ

Danny Giovale  
Founder  
Kahtoola  
Flagstaff, AZ

Laura Forero  
Legislative Representative  
League of Conservation Voters  
Washington, DC

Taylor McKinnon  
Senior Public Lands Campaigner  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Flagstaff, AZ

Nathan Rees  
Policy Coordinator  
Trout Unlimited  
Tempe, AZ

Matthew Nelson  
Executive Director  
Arizona Trail Association  
Tucson, AZ

Camilla Simon  
Executive Director  
HECHO (Hispanics, Enjoying Camping,  
Hunting, and the Outdoors)  
Washington, DC

Rev. Katie Sexton  
Executive Director  
Arizona Faith Network  
Phoenix, AZ

Encl: Coconino County Resolution 2019-08 (1), City of Flagstaff Resolution 2019-13 (2), Havasupai Tribal Council Resolution 12-19 (3), Hualapai Tribal Council Resolution 67-2009 (4), Hopi Tribal Council Resolution H-0250-2019 and supporting documents (5)

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

**RESOLUTION 2019-08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA, IN SUPPORT OF THE PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL OF THE GRAND CANYON AND SURROUNDING WATERSHED ACREAGE FROM MINING AND OTHER FORMS OF WITHDRAWAL AND APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC LANDS.**

**WHEREAS**, Coconino County previously adopted a resolution (No. 2008-09) which stated clearly that the County “opposes uranium development on lands in the proximity of the Grand Canyon National Park and its watersheds”; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, along with 27 cosponsors including Rep. Tom O’Halloran, introduced H.R. 1373, the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act, on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 which will prohibit all mining and other extractions within the Grand Canyon National Park and its watershed, protecting over one-million acres from mining contamination; and

**WHEREAS**, the negative health impacts of uranium mining are evident throughout the County and within the Grand Canyon National Park and its watershed with radioactive waste from uranium mining;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Coconino County Board of Supervisors reaffirms Resolution 2008-09 and opposes uranium mining in the Grand Canyon National Park and its watershed;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Coconino County supports and urges passage of legislation that will permanently prohibit future mining and other forms of withdrawal and appropriation of public lands in the Grand Canyon National Park and its watershed.

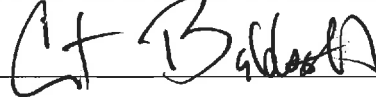
**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 2nd day of April, 2019.

**AYES:** 4

**NO’S:** 1

**ABSENT:** 0

**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



Art Babbott, Chairman

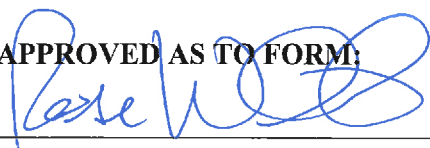


**ATTEST:**



Lindsay Daley  
Clerk of the Board

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



Rose Winkeler  
Deputy County Attorney

## RESOLUTION NO. 2019-13

### A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF SUPPORTING CONGRESSMAN RAUL GRIJALVA'S PROPOSED HOUSE BILL TITLED "GRAND CANYON CENTENNIAL PROTECTION ACT" WHICH WILL ENACT A PERMANENT BAN ON URANIUM MINING ON MORE THAN ONE MILLION ACRES OF LAND AROUND THE GRAND CANYON

#### RECITALS:

WHEREAS, advocating for and supporting actions that lead to the advancement of social and environmental justice for the Indigenous community is a City Council goal; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Flagstaff have historically opposed actions furthering radioactive pollution in the region, including the adoption of Resolution No. 2010-74, which expressed support for 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; Resolution No. 2245, which urged President Clinton and Congress to not transport radioactive waste from contained storage until scientific decisions are made concerning permanent nuclear waste storage and declaring Flagstaff a Nuclear Free Zone; and Resolution No. 2018-06 reaffirming Council's support of the Secretary of the Interior's 2012 order to withdraw 1,006,545 acres of federal land surrounding the Grand Canyon National Park from new uranium mining for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 2008-09 opposes "Uranium development on lands in the proximity of the Grand Canyon National Park and its watersheds;" and

WHEREAS, the Tusayan Town Council Resolution No. 2011-03-2302 supports the 2012 Grand Canyon Mineral Withdrawal; and

WHEREAS, the Hualapi Tribal Council Resolution No. 67-2009 opposes uranium exploration and mining; and

WHEREAS, the Flagstaff City Council adopted Resolution No. 2017-38, which expresses the Council's opposition to uranium mining and the transportation of uranium ore through the City of Flagstaff and Indigenous lands in the region, and reaffirms Flagstaff as a nuclear free zone; and

WHEREAS, during the Cold War, 30 million tons of uranium ore were mined on or adjacent to the Navajo Nation leaving more than 500 abandoned mines; and

WHEREAS, many Indigenous community members already affected by living in close proximity to abandoned uranium mines are still seeking relief from radioactive waste in these areas that have remained for decades at many of the mines creating elevated levels of radiation;

WHEREAS, potential health effects of uranium mining include lung cancer from the inhalation of radioactive particles, as well as bone cancer and impaired kidney function from exposure to radionuclides in drinking water; and

WHEREAS, Congress acknowledged that radiation exposure from the mining, transport and processing of uranium has affected and continues to affect thousands of individuals and in 1990 passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to provide compensation to individuals who have developed and are developing cancers and other serious diseases caused by uranium mining; and

WHEREAS, uranium mining threatens the Havasupai Tribe, which relies heavily upon clean and safe water of surrounding springs and the integrity of the land to sustain the physical, cultural, religious and economic needs of its people.

WHEREAS, the exploration and mining of uranium is known to cause serious, detrimental and irreversible human health and environment impacts that directly conflict with the federal government's duty to manage the public lands for the protection and preservation of the places that possess cultural, religious and historic importance to the Native people; and

WHEREAS, uranium mining in the Grand Canyon region has left a toxic legacy of polluted water, air, and soil at more than 500 highly containment mine and mill sites that remain un-reclaimed within the Navajo Nation and these sites increase the risk of disease and death of people living in communities throughout Northern Arizona; and

WHEREAS, to protect, for current and future generations, the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon region in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes is vital for the health and well-being of all; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon National Park, a world heritage site located 85 miles north of the City of Flagstaff, Arizona, is an integral part of the Northern Arizona landscape and plays an integral role in the tourism economy of the City of Flagstaff; and

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

**ENACTMENTS:**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY FLAGSTAFF, AS FOLLOWS:**

That the Flagstaff City Council affirms its support of for Congressman Raul Grijalva's proposed house bill titled "Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act," which will enact a permanent ban on uranium mining on more than one million acres of land around the Grand Canyon.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Flagstaff this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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CITY ATTORNEY





# HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 10 • Supai, Arizona 86435  
(928) 433-8130 • Fax (928) 433-8119

**HAVASUPAI TRIBE  
HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
SUPAI, ARIZONA**

**Resolution No. 12-19**

**Resolution to Support HR1373 to Permanently  
Ban Mining near Grand Canyon**

- WHEREAS, The Havasupai Tribe is a federally recognized sovereign Indian Tribe organized on June 8, 1880 by Presidential Executive Order and subsequently by Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act (the "Tribe"); and
- WHEREAS, The Amended Constitution of the Havasupai Tribe of the Havasupai Reservation (the "Constitution") provides, at Article V, Section 2 "The Havasupai Tribal Council may take any and all actions necessary and proper for the exercise of the foregoing powers and duties, including those powers and duties not enumerated above, and all other powers and duties now or hereafter delegated to the Tribal Council, or vested in the Tribal Council through its inherent sovereignty"; and
- WHEREAS, The Constitution further provides at Article XI, "Mining, exploration, or surveying for uranium on the reservation shall be prohibited";
- WHEREAS, the Havasupai, the Havasu 'Bajaa, are the People of the blue-green water that emits from the Redwall-Muav aquifer at the springs on our reservation and that flows through Havasu Creek cascading over the magnificent waterfalls on its way to the Colorado River;
- WHEREAS, the Redwall-Muav aquifer underlies the Coconino Plateau including the underneath the Canyon uranium mine and other proposed mines and discharges 96% of its water directly to springs and into Havasu Creek on the Havasupai Reservation;
- WHEREAS, there is contaminated groundwater at the Canyon uranium mine site and it may contaminate the Redwall aquifer resulting in direct contamination to the sole source of our water which will harm our being as Havasu 'Bajaa;
- WHEREAS, the water from the Redwall-Muav aquifer is the sole source for all water in the Village of Supai for drinking, domestic use, tourism, livestock, and wildlife;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds that the Secretarial Withdrawal of the federal lands around Grand Canyon was intended to provide scientific information about the effects of uranium mining on the land, the water, the wildlife and the people but the studies have not been adequately funded and there is much to still be studied about the harms from uranium mining;

WHEREAS, we, the Havasu 'Baaja, will be the ones who suffer the consequences of not knowing the science and not knowing the effects of uranium mining around the Grand Canyon;

WHEREAS, our aboriginal lands include the sacred site on which Canyon Mine is located, we are the Indians who lived and grew crops with water from the springs at Indian Gardens in Grand Canyon National Park, we have always lived in our canyon home and will always remain here, we cannot be relocated and remain Havasu 'Baaja;

WHEREAS, we have opposed uranium mining in this area for over 40 years and will continue to do so for all time;

WHEREAS, the United States has a trust obligation to protect us and an obligation to protect and preserve the Grand Canyon region that cannot be met if mining is permitted to continue and to increase on the Coconino Plateau.

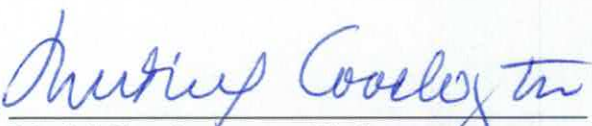
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Havasupai Tribal Council that we support HR1373 and any similar federal legislation that will permanently ban uranium mining and the establishment of new mining claims near the Grand Canyon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Chairwoman, or in her absence the Vice Chairman or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take actions necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution is adopted pursuant to the authority of Article V, Section 1 of the Amended Constitution of the Havasupai Tribe, a federally recognized sovereign Indian Tribe and Article II of the Bylaws of the Havasupai Tribe at the Special Council meeting of the Tribal Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019 by a vote of 4 for; 0 opposed and 3 abstained.

HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL:

By:   
Muriel Coochwyetewa, Chairwoman

ATTEST:

Hope Manakaja  
Hope Manakaja, Tribal Secretary

**HUALAPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION NO. 67-2009  
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
HUALAPAI TRIBE OF THE HUALAPAI RESERVATION**

**{Position of the Hualapai Tribe's Opposition to Uranium Exploration and Mining}**

- WHEREAS,** the Hualapai Reservation encompasses approximately one-seventh of the aboriginal territory of the Hualapai Tribe, and many places outside our Reservation boundary hold religious, cultural, and historic significance for the Hualapai people; and
- WHEREAS,** many places that hold religious, cultural, and historic significance for the Hualapai people are located on lands that are currently managed by various federal agencies of the federal government, including but not limited to the areas within the Kaibab National Forest, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service; and
- WHEREAS,** the Hualapai Tribe considers the entire Grand Canyon from rim to rim to be a culturally significant landscape which includes hundreds of particular places that hold religious and cultural significance; and
- WHEREAS,** the Federal Government has responsibilities, both legal and moral, to manage public lands in a way that shows proper respect for places that hold religious and cultural and historical importance to Indian tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** uranium exploration and mining cause many adverse humanitarian and environmental impacts that are inconsistent with the management of public lands for the preservation of the integrity of places that hold tribal religious, historical and cultural significance; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal law known as the 1872 Mining Law is an anachronism; under this law the federal government gives away valuable natural resources to private companies, with the mining claims of those private companies taking precedence over other public interests, including the public interest in preserving places that hold religious and cultural importance for Indian tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the 1872 Mining Law was enacted during the "robber baron" era of American history; in the historical context of the relations between the Hualapai Tribe and the United States, the 1872 law was enacted at about the same time as two traumatic events in Hualapai history: the war that the U.S. Army fought against the Hualapai people from 1866 to 1868 and the forced removal of many of the Hualapai people to La Paz in 1874; and
- WHEREAS,** during the Administration of President Clinton, the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior issued a legal opinion that federal land managing agencies do have discretion to deny permission to develop mining claims, in effect, if the costs associated with mitigating damage to the environment, cultural resources and ethereal belief of a tribe would render the extraction of the minerals not economically viable (Solicitor, "Regulation of Hardrock Mining," M-36999 (Dec.



27, 1999)), the Bush Administration issued a Solicitor's opinion that reached a contrary conclusion (Solicitor, "Surface Management Provisions for Hardrock Mining," M-37007 (Oct. 23, 2001)); and

**WHEREAS,** the Department of the Interior has proposed the withdrawal of nearly one million acres of federal lands in the Grand Canyon watershed from new mining claims under the 1872 Mining Law, an action that would put these lands off limits for mineral exploration and extraction for twenty years, and which has the immediate effect of putting these lands off limits for two years while the Secretary of the Interior considers whether to make the proposed withdrawal final; and

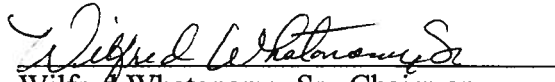
**WHEREAS,** various federal agencies have invited public comment on proposed uranium explorations and uranium mining within areas apparently not covered by the Secretary's proposed withdrawal;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Hualapai Tribe formally declares strong opposition on proposed exploratory drilling and uranium mining;


1. Commends the Secretary of the Interior for the proposed withdrawal of federal lands from claims under the 1872 Mining Law and calls for the Secretary to make a final decision to proceed with the withdrawal;
2. Opposes proposals by uranium mining companies to conduct exploratory drilling for uranium within the jurisdiction of various federal land managing agencies;
3. Calls upon the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a review of Solicitor's opinions on the regulation of hardrock mining;
4. Supports efforts in Congress to repeal or substantially amend the 1872 Mining Law;
5. Opposes exploration for uranium and uranium mining without tribal approval on all Hualapai ancestral lands including lands under the sovereign authority of the Hualapai Tribe.

#### CERTIFICATION

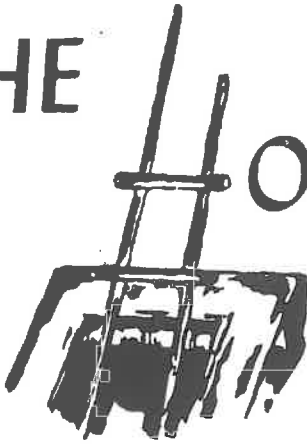
I, the undersigned as Chairman of the Hualapai Tribal Council hereby certify that the Hualapai Tribal Council of the Hualapai Tribe is composed of nine (9) members of whom 9 constituting a quorum were present at a **Regular Council Meeting** thereof held on this **3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2009**; and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by a vote of **9 - for, 0 - oppose**, pursuant to authority of Article V, Section (a) of the Constitution of the Hualapai Tribe approved March 13, 1991.

  
Wilfred Whatoname, Sr., Chairman  
Hualapai Tribal Council

ATTEST

  
Adeline Crozier, Assist. Secretary  
Hualapai Tribal Council

# THE HOPI TRIBE



Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma  
CHAIRMAN

Clark W. Tenakhongva  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Stewart Koyiyumptewa, Program Manager  
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

**FROM:**   
Theresa A. Lomakema, Tribal Secretary  
Hopi Tribal Council

**DATE:** April 12, 2019

**SUBJECT:** THE HOPI TRIBE TO SUPPORT THE GRAND CANYON  
CENTENNIAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2019 – A.I. #023-2019 / H-  
025-2019

On April 9, 2019, the Hopi Tribal Council by motion and majority vote approved the Action Item and Resolution mentioned above.

By passage of this Resolution, the Hopi Tribal Council hereby supports other governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations that join Hopi in opposing continuing efforts to undermine the Northern Arizona Mineral Withdrawal.

Furthermore, the Hopi Tribe supports the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act of 2019 to permanently withdraw approximately one million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon from mineral entry under the General Mining Law of 1872.

C: Office of the Chairman  
Office of the Vice Chairman  
Office of the Treasurer  
Office of Financial Management  
Office of Executive Director  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of General Counsel

HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
H-025-2019

WHEREAS, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Hopi Tribe, ARTICLE VI - POWERS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL, SECTION 1 (a), (k) and (l) authorizes the Hopi Tribal Council “To represent and speak for the Hopi Tribe in all matters for the welfare of the Tribe, . . .”; “To protect the arts, crafts, traditions, and ceremonies of the Hopi Indians.”; and “To delegate any of the powers of the Council to committee’s or officers, keeping the right to review any action taken.”; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribe has repeatedly stated that past contamination from uranium mining should be cleaned up before any additional uranium mining is approved, and we oppose the continued use of the archaic 1872 Mining Law to justify uranium mining; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribe has stated that we believe the Federal, State and local governments should focus on and address the existing threat to human life and that Congress replace the 1872 Mining Law with a Sacred Sites Act and mining law fit for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and into the future; and

WHEREAS, Hopi people emerged into this World at the Grand Canyon, known to us as *Öngtupqa* or Salt Canyon. *Öngtupqa* is our birthplace as a People and these lands contain the testimony of our ancestors’ occupation and use for thousands of years, manifest in the prehistoric ruins, the rock “art” and artifacts, and the human remains of our ancestors, *Hisatsinom*, People of Long ago, who continue to inhabit them; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon is a Traditional Cultural Property of the Hopi Tribe and these

HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
H-025-2019

“public lands” are part of our ancestral lands, and *Hopisinom* have returned to *Öngtupqa* on salt gathering pilgrimages since time immemorial and continue to do so today; and

WHEREAS, for over a thousand years, the springs and waters of the Hopi Mesas have provided life to *Hopisinom* and the legacy of past uranium mining has left wounds on our land, our water, and our people. These wounds are not scars, for they have not healed. Two of our Villages, Upper and Lower *Munqapi* (Moenkopi) are now threatened by a uranium contaminated plume of ground water from the former Rare Metals uranium mill near Tuba City; and

WHEREAS, *Hopisinom* and many other Native American people suffer an ongoing legacy of death by cancer, chronic health problems, and radioactive contamination including water contamination on tribal lands. We know firsthand from our experience at *Munqapi*, that the contamination will travel, that it does not stay in one place, and that it spreads contamination as it moves; and

WHEREAS, the 1872 mining law is a 19<sup>th</sup> Century tool of archaic law used to “discover,” “claim,” and “take” Native Americans’ lands and continues today as a policy of disregard and disrespect toward the beliefs and sacred ties that Hopi and Native American people have with the Earth. The legacy of uranium mining has devastated the people and the land, and the 1872 mining law continues to destroy the land and lives of *Hopisinom*, Native Americans and Americans alike; and

WHEREAS, over two thousand mining claims have been filed around the Grand Canyon on



HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
H-025-2019

United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. Therefore, we support the Proposed Action that would protect one million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining and exploration by withdrawing the Tusayan Ranger District and Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the vicinity of Kanab Creek and in Rock House Valley from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

WHEREAS, *Koyanishqatsi*, told in Hopi history and prophecy, is life out of balance, or a state of life that calls for another way of living. This state of life characterizes the risks we face together in modern times. If Americans are to live together in America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we must call together for another way of living. The laws of the past that are now being used against all American people must be consigned to the past and replaced with laws that support life and not destruction and death.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hopi Tribe supports other governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations that join us in opposing continuing legislative efforts to undermine the Northern Arizona Mineral Withdrawal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hopi Tribe agrees that a qualifying threat to the Grand Canyon continues to exist and we continue to offer our complete support for the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act of 2019 to withdraw these lands pursuant to the Federal Land Policy Management Act.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Hopi Tribe enthusiastically supports the Grand Canyon

HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
H-025-2019

Centennial Act of 2019 to permanently withdraw approximately one million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon from mineral entry under the General Mining Law of 1872.

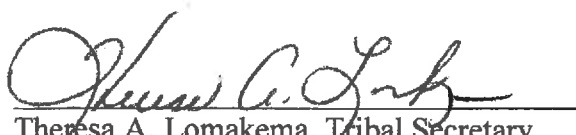
CERTIFICATION

The Hopi Tribal Council duly adopted the foregoing Resolution on April 9, 2019 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 18 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining (Chairman presiding and not voting) pursuant to the authority vested in the Hopi Tribal Council by ARTICLE VI-POWERS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL, SECTION 1 (a), (k), and (l) of the Hopi Tribal Constitution and By-Laws of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona, as ratified by the Tribe on October 24, 1936, and approved by the Secretary of Interior on December 19, 1936, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934. Said Resolution is effective as of the date of adoption and does not require Secretarial approval.



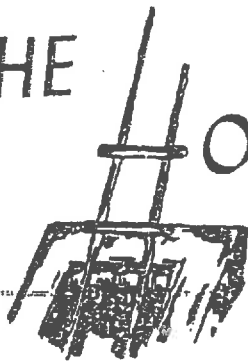
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma, Chairman  
Hopi Tribal Council

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Theresa A. Lomakema, Tribal Secretary  
Hopi Tribal Council

THE



OPI TRIBE

Leroy Shingoitewa  
CHAIRMAN

Herman G. Honanie  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Testimony of Benjamin H. Nuvamsa  
Chairman, The Hopi Tribe  
to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands  
of the Committee on Natural Resources  
*Community Impacts of Proposed Uranium Mining Near Grand Canyon National Park*  
March 28, 2008, Flagstaff, Arizona

*Loloma.* Good morning. On behalf of the Hopi people, it is my responsibility as Chairman of the Hopi Tribe to be here today to express the Hopi Tribal government and *Hopisenom*, or Hopi people's opposition to uranium exploration and mining around the Grand Canyon. We understand that thousands of new mining claims have been filed around the Grand Canyon on United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. These "public lands" are part of our ancestral lands.

Therefore, it is my pleasure as Chairman of the Hopi Tribe to be here today to express the Hopi Tribe and *Hopisenom* support for The Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2008. H.R. 5583 would protect one million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining and exploration by withdrawing "the Tusayan Ranger District and Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the vicinity of Kanab Creek and in Rock House Valley from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and for other purposes."

The Grand Canyon is a Traditional Cultural Property of the Hopi Tribe. Hopi people emerged into this World at the Grand Canyon, known to us as *Ongtupqa*, or Salt Canyon. *Ongtupqa* is our birthplace as a People.

With our emergence from *Ongtupqa*, Hopi people entered into a sacred Covenant with *Maasaw*, the Earth Guardian, in which it is our responsibility to be preservers and protectors, or Stewards of the Earth. In accordance with that Covenant, our ancestors migrated to and settled in these lands, and then migrated from them to Hopi, *Tuuwanasavi*, the Center of the Universe.

These lands contain the testimony of our ancestors' "discovery" thousands of years ago, manifest in the prehistoric ruins, the rock "art" and artifacts, and the human remains of our ancestors, *Motisenom*, First People, and *Hisatsenom*, People of Long Ago, who continue to inhabit them. *Hopisenom* have returned to *Ongtupqa* on salt pilgrimages since time immemorial, and continue to do so today.

*Patuwaquatsi*. Water is life. The legacy of past uranium mining has left wounds ~~on our land, our water, and our people. These wounds are not scars, for they have not~~ healed. Two of our Villages, Upper and Lower *Munqapi* (Moencopi), were established by residents of *Orayvi* (Oraibi), recognized as the oldest continuously occupied community in the United States. These Villages are now threatened by a uranium contaminated plume of ground water from the former Rare Metals mine near Tuba City.

For over a thousand years, the springs and waters of *Munqapi* have provided life to *Hopisenom*. These springs and waters, farms and people are threatened now from the legacy of past uranium mining. The federal government is proposing new studies of these wounds, apparently because action to heal them is beyond current technological capabilities. Although the Rare Metals mine is now closed, the wounds it left are continuing to infect the lives of our Villages and people.

The hard rock mining law of 1872 offers very little protection for lands. Rather, it essentially prioritizes the interests of mining companies over those of the public. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxics Release Inventory, mining metals is the country's leading source of toxic pollution, and as a result the EPA estimates that more than 40% of Western watersheds have contamination in their headwaters. According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in the mining of uranium, "all the methods have the potential for radioactive pollution."

*Hopisenom* and many other Native American people suffer an ongoing legacy of death by cancer, chronic health problems, and radioactive contamination including water contamination on tribal lands. We appreciate the efforts of the Navajo Nation and President Shirley in opposing uranium mining on and around the Navajo Nation. We know first hand from our experience at *Munqapi*, that the contamination will travel, that it does not stay in one place, and that it spreads contamination as it moves. We are facing just this situation in *Munqapi* today. We share President Shirley's position that "The federal government should clean up existing contaminated sites before it promotes renewed uranium mining."

The 1872 mining law is a 19<sup>th</sup> Century tool of Manifest Destiny used to "discover," "claim," and "take" Native Americans' lands, continues today as a policy of disregard and disrespect toward the beliefs and sacred ties that Hopi and Native American people have with the Earth. The legacy of uranium mining has devastated the people and the land, and the 1872 mining law continues to destroy the land and lives of *Hopisenom*, Native Americans, and Americans alike.

Hopi Cultural Preservation Office consultations with the United States Forest Service, Kaibab National Forest and Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip confirm that these agencies proclaim that "The 1872 Mining Law specifically authorizes the taking of valuable mineral commodities from Public Domain Lands. A 'No Action' alternative is not an option that can be considered."

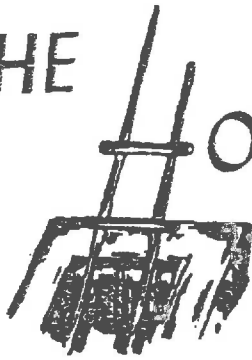
*Koyaanisqatsi*, told in Hopi history and prophesy, is life out of balance, or a state of life that calls for another way of living. This state of life characterizes the risks we face together in modern times. If Americans are to live together in America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we must call together for another way of living. The laws of the past that are now being used against all American people must be consigned to the past, and replaced with laws that support life, and not destruction and death.

We would like to gratefully thank Representative Grijalva for his leadership in the United States House of Representatives' recent passage of a bill reforming the 1872 Mining Law, which includes a provision for Native American sacred sites preservation and protection. We hope the Senate acts positively on that House bill and the President signs it into law.

We would also like to thank Representative Grijalva for introducing The Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2008. We look forward to working with the Grand Canyon Trust and the Tribes in the Grand Canyon area, including the Navajo, Hualapai, Havasupai, and Kaibab Paiute Tribes, to develop a collective Tribal policy opposing uranium development around the Grand Canyon. We also look forward to working with Representative Grijalva, Governor Napolitano, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, and others to ensure that *Ongtupqa* is protected and preserved for future generations of Hopisenom, Americans, and all the people and living things of the Earth. As *Lomasumi'nangwtukwsiwmani*, the Hopi Foundation, says, "Our destiny together is a matter of choice, since we are the community we make."

*Hopisenom* say, "We're not just farming, we're growing children. This is why it is my responsibility as well as my pleasure to be here today: to express the Hopi Tribe and *Hopisenom* opposition to the 1872 mining law and uranium development around *Ongtupqa*, and our support for the reform of that law and the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2008, H.R. 5583. We join others calling Arizona's delegation in the House and Senate to act and act quickly to protect the Grand Canyon. *Kwa'kwai*. Thank you.

# THE HOPI TRIBE



LeRoy N. Shingoitewa  
CHAIRMAN

Herman G. Honanie  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

February 28, 2011

Scott Florence, District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip District Office  
345 East Riverside Dr.  
St George, Utah 84790

Re: Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Project

Dear Mr. Florence,

This letter is in preliminary response to your correspondence dated February, 2011, and your administrative meeting with the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office on February 23, 2011, regarding the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). As we have stated throughout the review process for this DEIS, the Hopi Tribe enthusiastically supports the Proposed Action, Alternative B, to withdraw approximately one million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon from mineral entry under the General Mining Law of 1872.

The Grand Canyon is a Traditional Cultural Property of the Hopi Tribe. These "public lands" are part of our ancestral lands. Hopi people emerged into this World at the Grand Canyon, known to us as *Ongtuqa*, or Salt Canyon. *Ongtuqa* is our birthplace as a People. These lands contain the testimony of our ancestors' occupation and use for thousands of years, manifest in the prehistoric ruins, the rock "art" and artifacts, and the human remains of our ancestors *Hisatsinom*, People of Long Ago, who continue to inhabit them. *Hopisinom* have returned to *Ongtuqa* on salt gathering pilgrimages since time immemorial, and continue to do so today.

The Hopi Tribe provided testimony to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources at a hearing entitled *Community Impacts of Proposed Uranium Mining Near Grand Canyon National Park* on March 28, 2008, in Flagstaff, Arizona. In that testimony, Chairman Nuvamsa expressed the Hopi Tribal government and *Hopisinom*, or Hopi people's, opposition to uranium exploration and mining around the Grand Canyon.

We understand that thousands of new mining claims have been filed around the Grand Canyon on United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. Therefore, we support the Proposed Action that would protect one million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining and exploration by withdrawing the Tusayan Ranger District and Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the vicinity of Kanab Creek and in Rock House Valley from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws.

Scott Florence  
February 28, 2011  
Page 2

*Patuwaquatsi*. Means "ocean" and is used literally by some as "water is life." For over a thousand years, the springs and waters of the Hopi Mesas have provided life to *Hopisinom*. The legacy of past uranium mining has left wounds on our land, our water, and our people. These wounds are not scars, for they have not healed. Two of our Villages, Upper and Lower *Munqapi* (Moenkopi), were established by residents of *Orayvi* (Oraibi), recognized as the oldest continuously occupied community in the United States. These Villages are now threatened by a uranium contaminated plume of ground water from the former Rare Metals mine near Tuba City.

*Hopisinom* and many other Native American people suffer an ongoing legacy of death by cancer, chronic health problems, and radioactive contamination including water contamination on tribal lands. We know first hand from our experience at *Munqapi*, that the contamination will travel, that it does not stay in one place, and that it spreads contamination as it moves. We hold the position that the federal government should clean up and reclaim existing contaminated sites before it promotes renewed uranium mining.

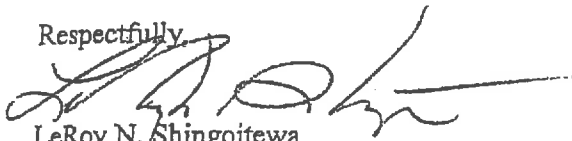
The 1872 mining law is a 19<sup>th</sup> Century tool of archaic law used to "discover," "claim," and "take" Native Americans' lands, and continues today as a policy of disregard and disrespect toward the beliefs and sacred ties that Hopi and Native American people have with the Earth. The legacy of uranium mining has devastated the people and the land, and the 1872 mining law continues to destroy the land and lives of *Hopisinom*, Native Americans, and Americans alike.

*Koyaanisqatsi*, told in Hopi history and prophesy, is life out of balance, or a state of life that calls for another way of living. This state of life characterizes the risks we face together in modern times. If Americans are to live together in America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we must call together for another way of living. The laws of the past that are now being used against all American people must be consigned to the past, and replaced with laws that support life, and not destruction and death.

We agree that a qualifying threat to the Grand Canyon currently exists. Although we are disappointed that the Bureau of Land Management did not consider our recommendation that an area larger than the Proposed Action be included as an alternative in this DEIS, we nevertheless offer our complete support for the Proposed Action to require the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw these lands pursuant to the Federal Land Policy Management Act.

As discussed at your administrative meeting with the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office, the Hopi Tribe is interested in pursuing further consultations on the DEIS, additional protection of cultural resources within the withdrawal area, and the potential application of this DEIS to lands outside the withdrawal area. I look forward to that meeting. Please continue to communicate with the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office on confirming a time and date. Subsequent to that meeting, the Hopi Tribe may offer additional comments on the DEIS. *Kwa'kway*. Thank you.

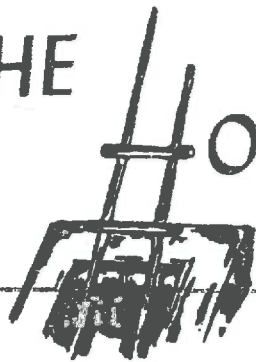
Respectfully,



LeRoy N. Shingoitewa  
Chairman  
THE HOPI TRIBE

Enclosures: April 11, 2006 letter; March 28, 2008 testimony; September 4, 2009 and January 29, 2010 letters

THE



OPI TRIBE

Leroy Shingoltewa  
CHAIRMAN

Herman G. Honanie  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

January 29, 2010

Scott Florence, District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip District Office  
345 East Riverside Drive  
St. George, Utah 84790

Dear Mr. Florence,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated January 20, 2010, regarding the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arizona Strip District, U.S. Forest Service, Kaibab National Forest, National Park Service (NPS), Grand Canyon National Park, and United States Geological Survey collaborating on an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed mining withdrawal in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon.

The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the prehistoric cultural groups in the 993,549-acre proposed mining withdrawal area, and the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties. The Grand Canyon and Red Butte are Traditional Cultural Properties of the Hopi Tribe. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office also considers the archaeological sites of our ancestors to be Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate your continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

Enclosed are the Hopi Tribe's September 4, 2009, letter and our testimony to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands regarding community impacts of proposed uranium mining near Grand Canyon National Park. We reiterate that we share the position that the federal government should clean up existing contaminated sites before it promotes renewed uranium mining, and we welcome and support the proposed action in this Environmental Impact Statement for the mining withdrawal in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon.

Your correspondence included a *Study Summary-Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal (AZA 35138)*. We have been contacted by the NPS regarding the Traditional Cultural Properties study, and we are interested in receiving copies of all of the draft studies for review and comment. Your correspondence did not include a copy of the draft consultation plan. Please provide us with a copy of the draft consultation plan for review and comment.

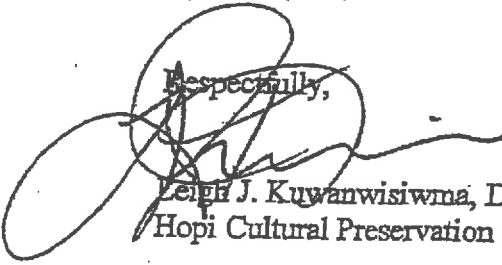


Scott Florence  
January 29, 2009  
Page 2

We were disappointed to hear that the BLM approved the opening of a uranium mine while simultaneously developing this Environmental Impact Statement.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office at 928-734-3619 or [tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us](mailto:tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us). Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

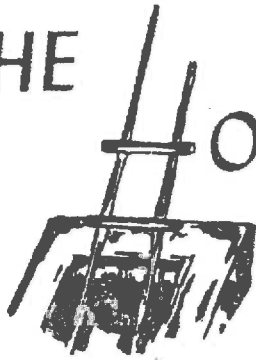


Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director  
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

Enclosures: September 4, 2009, letter; March 28, 2008, Hopi Testimony

xc: Mike Williams, Mike Lyndon, Kaibab National Forest, 800 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Williams, Arizona 86046  
Angela Parker, Tusayan Ranger District; Congressman Grijalva; Sierra Club; Grand Canyon Trust;  
Steve Martin, Grand Canyon; Havasupai, Zuni and Hualapai Tribes; Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

# THE HOPI TRIBE



CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

September 4, 2009

Lorraine M. Christian, Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office  
345 East Riverside Drive  
St. George, Utah 84790

Dear Ms. Christian,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated August 19, 2009, regarding the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip District, U.S. Forest Service, Kaibab National Forest, National Park Service, Grand Canyon National Park, and United States Geological Survey collaborating on an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed mining withdrawal in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon.

The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the prehistoric cultural groups in the 993,549-acre proposed mining withdrawal area, and the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties. The Grand Canyon and Red Butte are Traditional Cultural Properties of the Hopi Tribe. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office also considers the archaeological sites of our ancestors to be Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate your continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

Enclosed is the Hopi Tribe's testimony to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands regarding community impacts of proposed uranium mining near Grand Canyon National Park, which states:

The legacy of past uranium mining has left wounds on our land, our water, and our people... These wounds are not scars, for they have not healed... These springs and waters, farms and people are threatened now from the legacy of past uranium mining... *Hopisnom* and many other Native American people suffer an ongoing legacy of death by cancer, chronic health problems, and radioactive contamination including water contamination on tribal lands.... The legacy of uranium mining has devastated the people and the land, and the 1872 mining law continues to destroy the land and lives of *Hopisnom*, Native Americans, and Americans alike... The laws of the past that are now being used against all American people must be consigned to the past, and replaced with laws that support life, and not destruction and death...

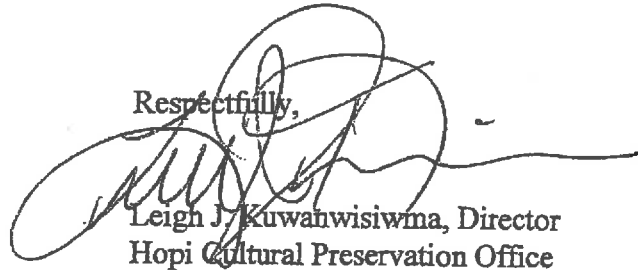
Lorraine M. Christian  
September 4, 2009  
Page 2

Also enclosed are our recent letters to the Forest Service regarding uranium exploration projects proposed on the Kaibab National Forest within this proposed mining withdrawal area. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management had assured us that they had no choice but to approve categorical exclusions, and that no long-term adverse environmental impacts were expected from drilling exploration projects.

We share the position that the federal government should clean up existing contaminated sites before it promotes renewed uranium mining. Therefore, we welcome this Environmental Impact Statement and look forward to being informed of its status and the status of any associated studies.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office at 928-734-3619 or [tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us](mailto:tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us). Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leigh J. Kuwahwisiwma, Director  
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

Enclosures: March 28, 2008, Hopi Testimony  
August, 2009, letters to KNF

xc: Mike Williams, Mike Lyndon, Kaibab National Forest, 800 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Williams, Arizona 86046  
Angela Parker, Tusayan Ranger District  
Congressman Grijalva; Sierra Club; Grand Canyon Trust  
Steve Martin, Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park  
Havasupai and Hualapai Tribes  
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To protect, for current and future generations, the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon region in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GRIJALVA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To protect, for current and future generations, the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon region in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Grand Canyon Centen-  
5 nial Protection Act".

1 **SEC. 2. WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND FROM MINING**  
2 **LAWS.**

3 (a) **DEFINITION OF MAP.**—In this Act, the term  
4 “Map” means the Bureau of Land Management map enti-  
5 tled “Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act” and dated  
6 February 8, 2019.

7 (b) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights,  
8 the approximately 1,070,613 acres of Federal lands in the  
9 State of Arizona within the area depicted on the Map, in-  
10 cluding any land or interest in land that is acquired by  
11 the United States after the date of enactment of this Act,  
12 are hereby withdrawn from—

13 (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and dis-  
14 posal under the public land laws;

15 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining  
16 laws; and

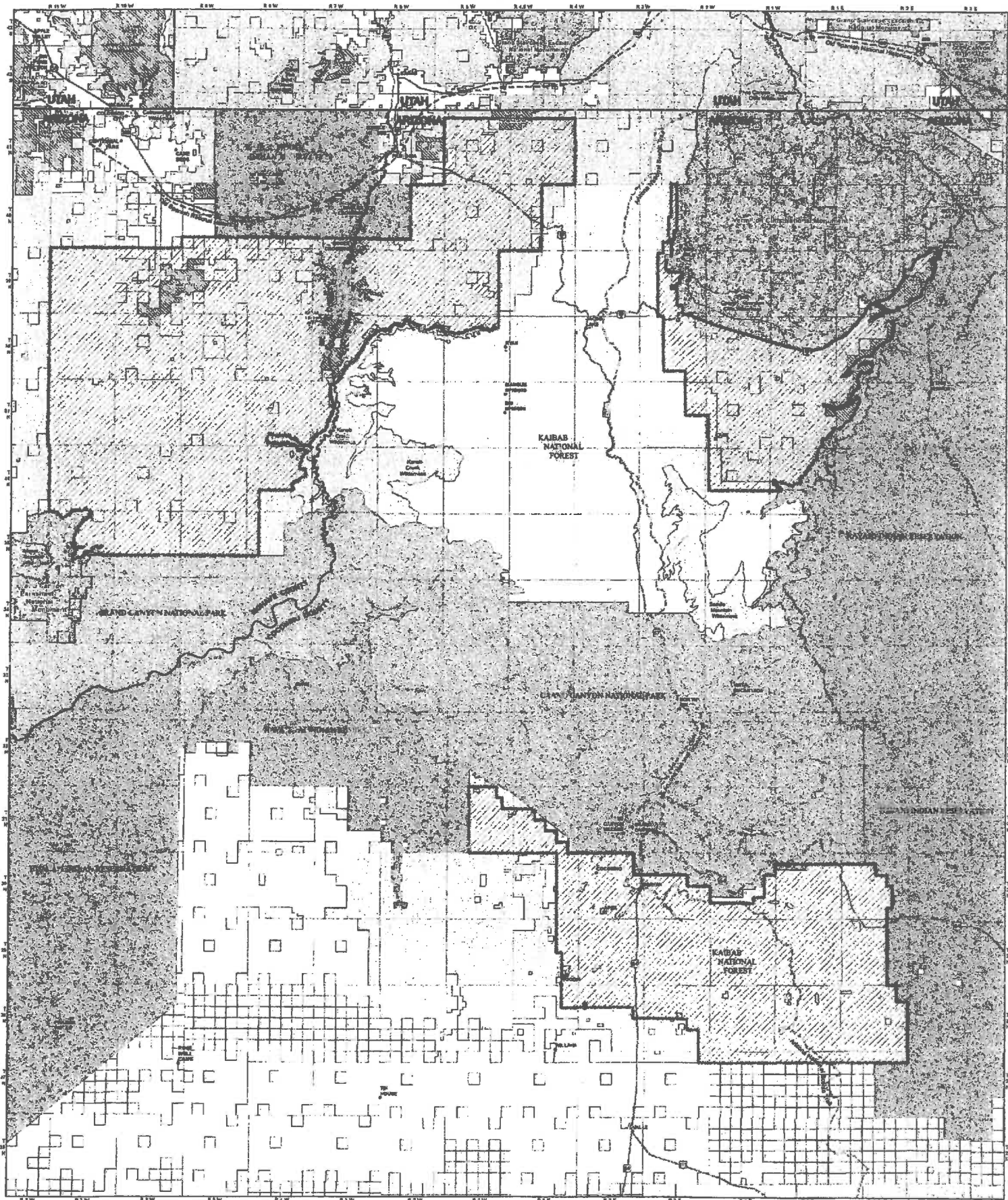
17 (3) operation of the mineral leasing and geo-  
18 thermal leasing laws and mineral materials laws.

19 (c) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The Map shall be kept  
20 on file and made available for public inspection in the ap-  
21 propriate offices of the Forest Service and the Bureau of  
22 Land Management.

# Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act

February 8, 2019

This map prepared in the report of Representative Bob Ogin



- |                                     |                 |                     |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Mineral Withdrawal                  | County Boundary | NPS                 |
| National Monument                   | ACEC            | Private             |
| Arizona National Scenic Trail       | Wilderness Area | State               |
| Old Spanish National Historic Trail | SLM             | State Wildlife Area |
| Wild and Scenic River               | Indian Lands    | USFS                |
| Perennial Stream                    |                 |                     |



Scale: 1:150,000  
This map intended to be plotted at 34 x 44 inches

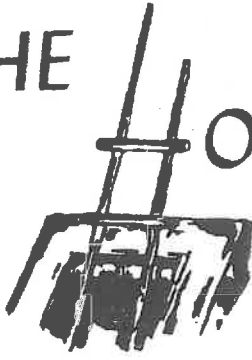


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE



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# THE HOPI TRIBE



LeRoy N. Shingoitewa  
CHAIRMAN

Herman G. Honanie  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

October 13, 2011

Ken Salazar, Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C St., NW  
Washington DC 20240

Re: Northern Arizona Mineral Withdrawal

Dear Secretary Salazar,

As Chairman of the Hopi Tribe, it is my responsibility to provide this letter in support of the Proposed and Preferred Alternative in the Northern Arizona Proposed Mineral Withdrawal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As we have stated throughout the review process for this EIS, the Hopi Tribe enthusiastically supports the Proposed and Preferred Action to withdraw approximately one million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon from mineral entry under the General Mining Law of 1872.

The Hopi Tribes has repeatedly stated that past contamination from uranium mining should be cleaned up before any additional uranium mining is approved, and we oppose the continued use of the archaic 1872 Mining Law to justify uranium mining. We have stated that we believe the Federal, State and local governments should focus on and address the existing threat to human life, and that Congress should replace the 1872 Mining Law with a Sacred Sites Act and mining law fit for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and into the future. Therefore, we oppose continuing legislative efforts to undermine the Northern Arizona Mineral Withdrawal.

The Grand Canyon is a Traditional Cultural Property of the Hopi Tribe. These "public lands" are part of our ancestral lands. Hopi people emerged into this World at the Grand Canyon, known to us as *Ongtuqa*, or Salt Canyon. *Ongtuqa* is our birthplace as a People. These lands contain the testimony of our ancestors' occupation and use for thousands of years, manifest in the prehistoric ruins, the rock "art" and artifacts, and the human remains of our ancestors *Hisatsinom*, People of Long Ago, who continue to inhabit them. *Hopisinom* have returned to *Ongtuqa* on salt gathering pilgrimages since time immemorial, and continue to do so today.

Enclosed are the Hopi Tribe's letters in support of the Proposed and Preferred Action in the EIS and testimony to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources at a hearing on March 28, 2008, in Flagstaff, Arizona.

We understand that thousands of new mining claims have been filed around the Grand Canyon on United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. Therefore, we support the Proposed Action that would protect one million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining and exploration by withdrawing the Tusayan Ranger District and Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the vicinity of Kanab Creek and in Rock House Valley from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws.

*Patuwaquatsi*. Means "ocean" and is used literally by some as "water is life." For over a thousand years, the springs and waters of the Hopi Mesas have provided life to *Hopisinom*. The legacy of past uranium mining has left wounds on our land, our water, and our people. These wounds are not scars, for they have not healed. Two of our Villages, Upper and Lower *Munqapi* (Moenkopi), were established by residents of *Orayvi* (Oraibi), recognized as the oldest continuously occupied community in the United States. These Villages are now threatened by a uranium contaminated plume of ground water from the former Rare Metals mine near Tuba City.

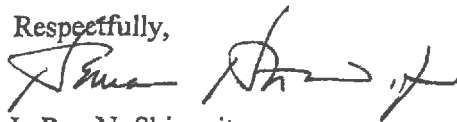
*Hopisinom* and many other Native American people suffer an ongoing legacy of death by cancer, chronic health problems, and radioactive contamination including water contamination on tribal lands. We know first hand from our experience at *Munqapi*, that the contamination will travel, that it does not stay in one place, and that it spreads contamination as it moves. We hold the position that the federal government should clean up and reclaim existing contaminated sites before it promotes renewed uranium mining.

The 1872 mining law is a 19<sup>th</sup> Century tool of archaic law used to "discover," "claim," and "take" Native Americans' lands, and continues today as a policy of disregard and disrespect toward the beliefs and sacred ties that Hopi and Native American people have with the Earth. The legacy of uranium mining has devastated the people and the land, and the 1872 mining law continues to destroy the land and lives of *Hopisinom*, Native Americans, and Americans alike.

*Koyaanisqatsi*, told in Hopi history and prophesy, is life out of balance, or a state of life that calls for another way of living. This state of life characterizes the risks we face together in modern times. If Americans are to live together in America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we must call together for another way of living. The laws of the past that are now being used against all American people must be consigned to the past, and replaced with laws that support life, and not destruction and death.

We agree that a qualifying threat to the Grand Canyon currently exists and we continue to offer our complete support for the Proposed and Preferred Action to to withdraw these lands pursuant to the Federal Land Policy Management Act.

Respectfully,



LeRoy N. Shingoitewa  
Chairman  
THE HOPI TRIBE



