

**Kimberly MacMillan**

---

From: Gary Ullinskey <[gnu4liberty@gmail.com](mailto:gnu4liberty@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, Mar 24, 2011 at 3:18 PM

Subject: Support for Alternative B - full withdrawal

To: [NAZproposedwithdrawal@azblm.org](mailto:NAZproposedwithdrawal@azblm.org)

Cc: [secretary\\_of\\_the\\_interior@ios.doi.gov](mailto:secretary_of_the_interior@ios.doi.gov), [will.shafroth@ios.doi.gov](mailto:will.shafroth@ios.doi.gov), [glenn.miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:glenn.miller@mail.house.gov), [steve\\_black@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steve_black@ios.doi.gov), [Director@blm.gov](mailto:Director@blm.gov), [jim\\_kenna@blm.gov](mailto:jim_kenna@blm.gov)

Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawl Project  
Attention: Scott Florence, District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Arizona Strip District Office  
345 East Riverside Drive  
St. George, UT 84790-6714

Dear Mr. Florence:

I am writing to request that the attached January 18 letter to Interior Secretary Salazar, sent by me and concerned citizens and community leaders from Arizona, Nevada and California, be included as a formal comment on the Bureau of Land Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

We support protecting one million acres of public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park from mining for 20 years, as presented in **Alternative B** of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you.

Sincere;y,

Gary M. Ullinskey  
Former Environmental Program Supervisor (c.1987-1990)  
Water Permits Unit, Plan Review and Permits Section  
Office of Water Quality  
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

January 18, 2011

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As community leaders in the lower Colorado River basin, we are writing to share with you our concerns about the risk uranium mining near Grand Canyon National Park poses to the Colorado River and our municipal water supplies.

It has been said that the Grand Canyon is a critical junction for water flowing from the Rocky Mountains to cities and farms across California, Nevada and Arizona. The Colorado River supplies water for 15 percent of the nation's crops, and it provides drinking water to one in 12 Americans. The stakes are high.

As local elected officials, water board members and former park rangers, we believe new uranium mining in the Grand Canyon watershed could pollute the Colorado River and drinking water supplies for Phoenix, Tucson, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Diego and other communities downstream.

Already, the Navajo Nation and all tribal reservations surrounding the Grand Canyon have banned uranium mining because of the toxic legacy left behind by more than 500 abandoned uranium mines, in addition to contaminated homes, wells, mills, and dumps. There are enormous costs associated with cleaning up contaminated water. Uranium clean-up efforts in Moab, UT near the Colorado River are projected to take decades and cost taxpayers several hundreds of millions of dollars.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, uranium exposure through drinking water could lead to bone cancer and impaired kidney function. Other questions about uranium mining persist:

- An abandoned uranium mining operation within the boundary of Grand Canyon National Park continues to pollute Horn Creek, prompting the National Park Service to warn backpackers along the popular Tonto trail to avoiding using water in the area.
- Uranium mining waste has already polluted 40 percent of the watersheds that provide Western communities with drinking water (Environmental Protection Agency).
- In 1984, a flash flood carried tons of high-grade uranium ore from six existing mines north of the park down Kanab Creek and into Grand Canyon National Park. While no studies have been done to determine whether or not there have been

long-lasting effects from this event, it is indicative of how future uranium mining could lead to contamination of surface waters.

Is it worth the risk to our water supply to allow uranium mining around the Grand Canyon? We think not.

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that you extend to 20 years the existing, temporary moratorium affecting new mining on the one million acres of public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon. More time is needed to find a longer-term solution to secure the Colorado River-fed water supplies for the millions of people downstream from the Grand Canyon.

Sincerely,

Chad Campbell  
House Minority Leader  
Phoenix, Arizona

Andy Hafen  
Mayor  
Henderson, Nevada

Kyrsten Sinema  
State Senator  
Phoenix, Arizona

Sandra Kennedy  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
Phoenix, Arizona

Tony Gioia  
Former Mayor Camp Verde, Arizona  
Former Co-Chairman Yavapai County  
Water Advisory

Lena Fowler  
County Supervisor, District V  
Coconino County, Arizona

Gary Ullinskey  
Former Environmental Program Supervisor,  
Water Permits Unit, Arizona Department of  
Environmental Quality

Jim Wood  
Mayor  
Oceanside, California

Tom Chacon  
City Councilman and Former Kaibab  
District Ranger  
Winslow, Arizona

Sara Presler  
Mayor  
Flagstaff, Arizona

Matt Heinz, MD  
State Representative  
Tucson, Arizona

John Davison  
Chair  
Coconino Natural Resources Conservation  
District  
Coconino County, Arizona

Martha Garcia  
Former State Representative  
Phoenix, Arizona

Richard Cherchio  
City Councilman  
North Las Vegas, Nevada

David Lujan  
Former House Minority Leader  
Phoenix, Arizona

Phil Lopes  
Former State Representative  
Tucson, Arizona

Lynne Pancrazi  
State Representative  
Yuma, Arizona

Jack Jackson, Jr.  
State Senator  
Tuba City, Arizona

Sam Pedroza  
Mayor Pro Tem  
Claremont, California

Katie Hobbs  
State Representative  
Phoenix, Arizona

Albert Hale  
State Representative  
St. Michaels, Arizona

Lela Alston  
State Representative  
Phoenix, Arizona

Jodi Allen  
Chair, Verde Natural Resource Conservation  
District  
Camp Verde, Arizona

Daniel Patterson  
State Representative  
Tucson, Arizona

Valerie Woolridge  
City Councilor  
Florence, Arizona

Tom Chabin  
State Representative  
Flagstaff, Arizona

Steve Farley  
State Representative  
Tucson, Arizona

Mary Lou Taylor  
Board Member  
Tempe Union School District  
Tempe, Arizona

Jay Kinsella  
Mayor  
Jerome, Arizona