

Kimberly MacMillan

From: **Kathie Clark** <kclark@azleg.gov>

Date: Thu, Mar 24, 2011 at 5:25 PM

Subject:

To: NAZproposedwithdrawal@azblm.org

Cc: secretary_of_the_interior@ios.doi.gov, will_shafroth@ios.doi.gov, glenn.miller@mail.house.gov, steve_black@ios.doi.gov, Director@blm.gov, Jim_kenna@blm.gov

Kat Clark

Administrative Assistant to

Chad Campbell , House Minority Leader

State Representative District 14

602.926.3101

kclark@azleg.gov

CHAD CAMPBELL
MINORITY LEADER
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE H
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844
CAPITOL PHONE: (602) 926-3026
CAPITOL FAX: (602) 417-3037
TOLL FREE: 1-800-352-8404
chcampbell@azleg.gov



COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS,
RANKING MEMBER
RULES
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

DISTRICT 14

March 22, 2011

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

RE: Arizona Proposed Withdrawal- Support for Alternative B

Dear Mr. Florence,

I am writing to request that the attached letter date January 18, 2011 to Interior Secretary Salazar sent by myself, other Arizona legislators, community leaders and officials 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CC".

Chad Campbell
House Minority Leader
Representative Legislative District 14

cc: secretary_of_the_interior@ios.doi.gov
will_shafroth@ios.doi.gov
glenn.miller@mail.house.gov
steve_black@ios.doi.gov
Director@blm.gov
Jim_kenna@blm.gov

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