

Kimberly MacMillan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **hertha woody** <hwoody@grandcanyontrust.org>

Date: Wed, May 4, 2011 at 6:59 PM

Subject: Navajo Nation No uranium mining and No uranium ore transport through Navajo Land

To: NAZproposedwithdrawal@azblm.org

4 May 2011

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

Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Project
ATTN: Scott Florence, District Manager
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790-6714

Re: Comments on the Northern Arizona Proposed Mineral Withdrawal Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr Secretary;

I support protecting the Grand Canyon's entire 1-million-acre watershed from uranium mining as outlined in Alternative B in the Draft Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Environmental Impact Statement and Revisions to the Withdrawal Application, Arizona.

I work for a non-profit organization in Flagstaff, Arizona. Through the past several months I was able to visit all Western Navajo Agency Chapters on the Navajo Nation. In my work as an educational outreach coordinator for the uranium campaign, I received nothing but full support for Alternative B from the Navajo people in the Chapter meeting attended. The Navajo people that live in these small communities along the uranium ore transport route are afraid of further contamination of their land and water supply.

I have taken initiative to gather several resolutions passed by some of these small Navajo communities. The Kayenta, Tuba City, Kaibeto and District One Chapter Resolutions are attached as well as the Western Navajo Agency Resolution.

Neither the federal government nor mining companies can guarantee that mining would not contaminate or deplete aquifers feeding Grand Canyon's seeps, springs and caves. And if it did happen, that pollution would be impossible to clean up.

Public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon -- and Grand Canyon National Park itself -- already suffer from a legacy of uranium mining pollution. More uranium mining would only add to that legacy on Navajo land in a time when the government should be focused on cleaning that legacy up, the Navajo people are still suffering adverse health effects today!

Please protect the Grand Canyon watershed by withdrawing the entire area described in Alternative B from location and entry under the Mining Law for 20 years.

Thank you,

Hertha Woody



NAVAJO NATION KAYENTA CHAPTER
POST OFFICE BOX 1088
KAYENTA CHAPTER, NAVAJO NATION, AZ 86033
CHAPTER RESOLUTION



RESOLUTION NO: KT11-047-04

KAYENTA CHAPTER HEREBY APPROVES AND SUPPORTS THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR KEN SALAZAR'S PROPOSED TWENTY YEAR MINERAL WITHDRAWAL TO PROHIBIT NEW MINING CLAIMS ON MORE THAN ONE MILLION ACRES OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS SURROUNDING GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARKS.

WHEREAS:

1. The Kayenta Chapter is recognized by the Navajo Nation pursuant to 26 N.N.C. as a local Governmental subunit of the Navajo Nation and is a government comprised of local citizens and their elected Chapter Officials; and
2. Kayenta Chapter is recognized by the Navajo Nation pursuant to 11 N.N.C. §10, as being located within District 8, Western Navajo Agency; and
3. Kayenta Chapter has implemented a Five Management System (FMS) and has a certified Land Use Plan; and
4. Kayenta Chapter recognizes that the Western Agency Council passed a Resolution (No.:352-13-4) in support of Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar's proposing a 20 year mineral withdrawal to prohibit new mining claims on nearly one million acres of Federal Public Lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park; cultural, religious, spiritual and historic importance to the Navajo people situated on land managed by the federal government; and
5. The exploration, mining and the irresponsible transportation of uranium or uranium ore known to cause serious, detrimental and irreversible human health and environmental 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 Native people; and
6. The uranium ore mined from the public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon are likely to be transported by truck on U.S. Highway 89, 160, and 163 and State Highway 98 through Navajo Chapters of Cameron, Tuba City, Tonalea, Lechee, Kaibeto, Shonto, Kayenta, Dennehotso, and Mexican Water relevant to the Kayenta Chapter service area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

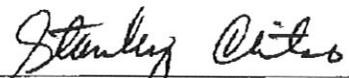
THE KAYENTA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP HEREBY APPROVES AND SUPPORTS THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR KEN SALAZAR'S PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW THE LANDS SUBJECT TO HIS CURRENT SEGREGATION ORDER FOR 20 YEARS.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS PRESENTED AT A DULY CALLED MEETING OF THE KAYENTA CHAPTER, NAVAJO NATION, ARIZONA, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THE SAME APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 26 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, AND 3 ABSTAINED ON THIS 17th DAY OF APRIL, 2011.

MOTION BY: Anita Singer

SECONDED BY: Pat Parrish



STANLEY CLIFISO, KAYENTA CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Resolution of K'ai'bii'Tó Chapter

KB2QTR ___ 11/02

Email: kaibeto@navajochapters.org

P.O. Box 1761 * Kaibeto, AZ * 86053 * Ph#: (928) 673-5850/5851 * Fax#: (928) 673-5853

IN SUPPORT OF THE GRAND CANYON WATSHEDS PROTECTION ACT, H.R. 644 AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR KEN SALAZAR'S PROPOSED 20-YEAR MINERAL WITHDRAWAL TO PROHIBIT NEW MINING CLAIMS ON NEARLY ONE MILLION ACRES OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS SURROUNDING GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK PASSED BY RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY (WACS Resolution No. : 352-13-4) WITH K'AI'BII'TO CHAPTER RESOLVED TO DISAPPROVE ANY URANIUM ORE TO BE TRANSPORTED BY TRUCK OR ANY OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION ON HWY 89 & HWY 98 THROUGH K'AI'BII'TO OR WESTERN NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. The K'ai'bii'To Chapter is a local governmental entity within the Western Navajo Agency, and is a duly certified Navajo Nation Chapter Government, pursuant to Navajo Nation Resolution CAP-34-98, and thereby is delegated the governmental authority with respect to local matters, and
2. Western Navajo Agency Council's passed Resolution No. : 352-13-4 (certified on December 18, 2010) in support of the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act, H.R. 644 and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's Proposed 20 year mineral withdrawal to prohibit new mining claims on nearly one million acres of Federal Public Lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.

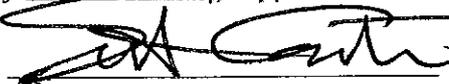
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

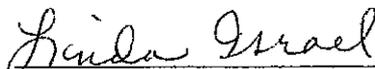
1. K'ai'Bii'To' Chapter does hereby supports, in conjunction with the Navajo Nation, H.R. 644 Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act to withdraw more than one million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon from future mining claims, to prevent exploration and mining of uranium, and
2. K'ai'Bii'To' Chapter does hereby **disapproves** any uranium ore to be transported by truck or any other means of transportation on Hwy 89 & 98, through K'ai'Bii'To' or Western Navajo Nation lands.

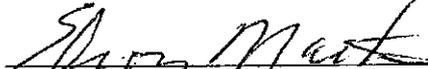
CERTIFICATION

We, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the K'ai'Bii'To' Chapter at a duly called Regular Chapter meeting at Kaibeto, (Navajo Nation) Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, with motion by Lorene Brown, and second by Jackie Dixon, this 13th day of February 2011.

Kelsey A. Begaye, President


Ernest Goatson, Vice-President


Linda Israel, Sec/Treasurer


Elroy Martin, DGCM

Duane Tsinnijinnie,
Council Delegate



DISTRICT ONE COUNCIL



Chester Claw
President

Kelsey A. Begaye
Vice-President

Sarah Dale
Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT ONE COUNCIL

IN SUPPORT OF SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR KEN SALAZAR'S PROPOSED 20-YEAR MINERAL WITHDRAWAL TO PROHIBIT NEW MINING CLAIMS ON MORE THAN ONE MILLION ACRES OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS SURROUNDING GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

DOC Resolution No.:

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation enacted the Diné Natural Resources Protection Act of 2005 to ensure that no further damage to the culture, society, and economy of the Navajo Nation occurs because of uranium mining within the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Indian Country and that no further damage to the culture, society and economy of the Navajo Nation occurs because of uranium processing until all adverse economic, environmental and human health effects from past uranium mining and processing have been eliminated or substantially reduced to the satisfaction of the Navajo Nation Council; and

WHEREAS, former Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr. testified in support of the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands on March 28, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Western Navajo Agency Council's passed Resolution No. :352-13-4 (certified on December 18th 2010) in support of Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's Proposed 20 year mineral withdrawal to prohibit new mining claims on nearly one million acres of Federal Public Lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park; and

WHEREAS, a variety of places, plants and animals that possess cultural, religious, spiritual and historic importance for Navajo people are situated on lands managed by the federal government and its executive agencies, including but not limited to areas under the authority of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has trust responsibilities and as such has a legal requirement to manage the public lands in a manner that is respectful to the health, welfare, and cultural integrity of Native American tribes; and

WHEREAS, the exploration, mining and the irresponsible transportation of uranium or uranium ore are known to cause serious, detrimental and irreversible human health and environmental 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 Native people; and

WHEREAS, uranium ore mined from public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon are likely to be transported by truck on U.S. Highways 89, 160, and 163 and State Highway 98 through Navajo Chapters of Cameron, Tuba City, Tonalea, Lechce, Kaibeto, Shonto, Kayenta, Dennehotso, and Mexican Water; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the District One Council does hereby support Secretary of Interior Salazar's proposal to withdraw the lands subject to his current segregation order for 20 years as outlined in Alternative B of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the District One Council Navajo Agency on _____ with a quorum present.

Motioned By: Floyd Steven Seconded By: Steven Arizona

absent

Chestor Claw, President

Kelsey A. Begaye

Kelsey A. Begaye, Vice-President

Sara Dale

Sara Dale, Sec/Treasurer

11 favor votes, opposed 0, abstained 0.



Council of Naat'aanii and Executive Manager Form of Government
 for To'Nanees'Dizi Community
 TO'NANEES'DIZI LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 P.O. Box 727, Tuba City, Arizona 86045
 Telephone: 928-283-3284 Fax: 928-283-3288
<http://www.tubacity.nndes.org> Email: tndchapter@yahoo.com

COUNCIL OF NAAT'AÁNII

- 1
- 2 Max D. Goldtooth
President
- 3
- 4 Robert Yazzie
Vice-President
- 5
- 6 Charlene A. Nez
Secretary/Treasurer
- 7
- 8 Helen M. Herbert
Council Member
- 9
- 10 Jimmy Holgate
Council Member

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- 11
- 12 Priscilla Littlefoot
Executive Manager
- 13
- 14 Noreen Parrish
Executive Assistant
- 15
- 16 Vanessa Lee
Administrative Assistant

LEGISLATION # TND-11-0327-2010

**TO'NANEES'DIZI LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF NAATAANII AND EXECUTIVE
 MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR TO'NANEES'DIZI COMMUNITY**
**LEGISLATION OF THE COUNCIL OF NAAT'AÁNII OF THE
 TO'NANEES'DIZI LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPPOSING URANIUM
 DEVELOPMENT IN THE VICINITY OF THOSE PORTIONS OF GRAND
 CANYON NATIONAL PARK AND ITS WATERSHEDS THAT LIE WITHIN
 COCONINO COUNTY.**

Sponsor: Robert Yazzie, Council of Naat'aanii Vice-President

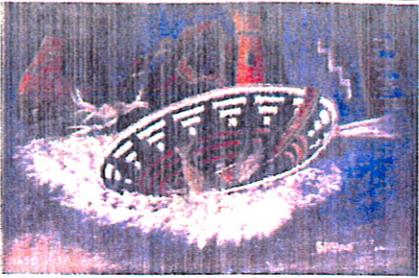
LONG TITLE

General Description:

This proposed legislation is to oppose Uranium development in the vicinity of those portions of Grand Canyon National Park and its watersheds that lie within Coconino County.

Highlighted Provisions:

- 18 1. The Grand Canyon National Park is one of the world's great natural
- 19 wonders whose protection for future generations has long been a
- 20 priority for the citizens of Coconino County.
- 21 2. The Grand Canyon National Park is an economic engine whose 5 million
- 22 visitors per year contribute significantly to the economy of Coconino
- 23 County.
- 24 3. More than 2000 uranium mining claims have been filed since 2003 in the
- 25 Tusayan Ranger district alone, the majority of them within ten miles of
- 26 Grand Canyon Nation Park. Additionally, claims have been filed on lands
- 27 managed b the Bureau of Land Management in the House Rock Valley.
- 28 4. The Kaibab National Forest on January 8 issued a decision memo
- 29 permitting exploratory drilling for uranium deposits by Van Minerals on
- 30 the Tusayan Ranger District within two miles of the boundaries of the
- 31 Grand Canyon National Park.
- 32 5. Previous uranium development operations in Coconino County have left



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- Vanessa Lee 48
Administrative Assistant

long term contamination problems that continue to harm the health of citizens of Coconino County and have contaminated creeks and aquifers providing public drinking water.

- 6. Horn Creek in the Grand Canyon National Park is contaminated with the typical legacy left behind from prior and existing uranium mines placed undue costs and adverse impacts on the tax payers of Coconino County.
- 7. Uranium development on the Tusayan Ranger District and the House Rock Valley will adversely affect unique ecosystems and endangered species, and pose potential threats of long term contamination to the Grand Canyon National Park, the Colorado River and those who use its waters, and the water supplies of communities such as Tusayan and Valley.

Special Clauses:

- None.

Be it resolved by the Council of Naat'aanii of the To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government concurring therein:

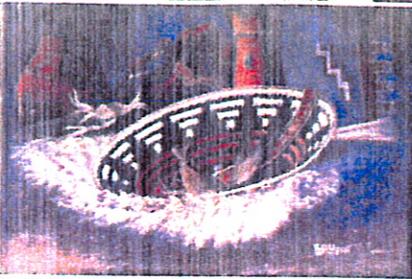
WHEREAS, the To'Nanees'Dizi Chapter is Local Governance Act Certified Chapter pursuant to TCDC # TCDCD-18-04.

WHEREAS, the To'Nanees'Dizi Chapter has adopted the Council of Naat'aanii and Executive Manager Form of Government for the To'Nanees'Dizi Chapter pursuant to the Special Referendum Election held on January 12, 2010, and Navajo Nation Board of Election Supervisors Certification on February, 3, 2010, BOESF-004-10.

WHEREAS, the Council of Naat'aanii Officers on behalf of the To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government opposes Uranium development in the vicinity of those portions of Grand Canyon National Park and its watersheds that lie within Coconino County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Naat'aanii of the To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government concurs therein opposes Uranium development in the vicinity of those portions of Grand Canyon National Park and its watersheds that lie within Coconino County.

CERTIFICATION



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 Vice-President

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 Secretary/Treasurer

Helen M. Herbert
 Council Member

Jimmy Holgate
 Council Member

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Priscilla Littlefoot
 Executive Manager

Noreen Parrish
 Executive Assistant

Vanessa Lee
 Administrative Assistant

65 I hereby certify that the foregoing legislation was duly considered and approved
 66 by the To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government Council of Naat'aanii at a duly called
 67 meeting in Tuba City, Navajo Nation, (Arizona), on this 9th day of November
 68 2010, at which a quorum was present and that the same was adopted by a
 69 majority vote of YES VOTE: 3 and NO VOTE: 0.

Max D. Goldtooth Sr.

Max D. Goldtooth, Sr., Council of Naat'aanii
 President
 To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government

72 President

73 Motion:

Charlene A. Nez

74 Second:

Jimmy Holgate

75

76



WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL



Thomas L. Cody
President

Yvonne Bigman
Vice-President

Louise Kerley
Secretary

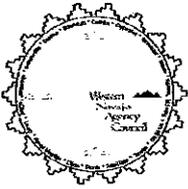
RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY

IN SUPPORT OF THE GRAND CANYON WATERSHEDS PROTECTION ACT, H.R. 644 AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR KEN SALAZAR'S PROPOSED 20-YEAR MINERAL WITHDRAWAL TO PROHIBIT NEW MINING CLAIMS ON NEARLY ONE MILLION ACRES OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS SURROUNDING GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK.

WACS Resolution No.: 352-13-4

WHEREAS:

1. The Western Navajo Agency Council is a consortium of duly elected Chapter Officials of eighteen (18) certified Navajo Nation Chapters that advocate, promote and support common goals and interests of the respective Chapters; AND
2. The Western Navajo Agency Council is comprised of elected officials from eighteen (18) Navajo Nation Chapters in the Western Navajo Agency and has the responsibility and authority to address matters and projects that will benefit the 18 chapters of the Western Navajo Agency of the Navajo Nation; AND
3. The Navajo Nation enacted the Diné Natural Resource Protection Act of 2005 to ensure that no further damage to the culture, society, and economy of the Navajo Nation occurs because of uranium mining and uranium processing within the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Indian Country until all adverse economic, environmental and human health effects from past uranium mining and processing have been eliminated or substantially reduced to the satisfaction of the Navajo Nation Council; and
4. Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr. testified in support of the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands on March 28, 2008; and
5. A variety of places, plants and animals that possess cultural, religious, spiritual and historical importance for Navajo people are situated on lands managed by the federal government and its executive agencies, including but not limited to areas under the authority of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; and
6. The Federal Government has trust responsibilities and as such has a legal requirement to manage the public lands in a manner that is respectful to the health, welfare, cultural integrity of Native American tribes; and
7. The exploration and mining of uranium is known to cause serious, detrimental irreversible human health and environmental impacts that directly conflicts with the Federal Government's duty to manage the public lands for the protection and preservation of the places that possess cultural, religious and historical importance to Native people; and
8. The federal law known as the 1872 Mining Law is an outdated piece of legislation that enables private mining companies to freely take invaluable natural resources, effectively subverting the rights of the public, including Indian tribes to which such places within the public lands possess sacred value and which requires protection and preservation from such invasive practices; and
9. Uranium ore mined from public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon are likely to be transported by truck on U.S. Highway 89, 160, and 163 and State Highway 98 through Navajo Chapters of Cameron, Tuba City, Tonalea, LeChee, Kaibeto, Shonto, Kayenta, Dennehotso, and Mexican Water; and



WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL



Thomas L. Cody
President

Yvonne Bigman
Vice-President

Louise Kerley
Secretary

10. Congressman Raul Grijalva has requested that the Department of the Interior withdraw lands from future mining claims due to the threat of uranium mining to human health, water quality, nearby Indian tribes, and the integrity of the Grand Canyon National Park; and
11. Congressman Raul Grijalva introduced H.R. 644, known as the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2009, in the 111th Congress, to withdraw approximately 1, 068,908 acres of federal land surrounding the Grand Canyon from future mining claims; and
12. 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
13. Since issuing the segregation order in 2009, the Department of the Interior has been evaluating whether to withdraw the lands from mining for an additional 20 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

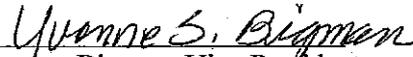
1. The Western Navajo Agency Council does hereby supports, in conjunction with the Navajo Nation, H.R. 644 Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act to withdraw more than one million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon from future mining claims, to prevent exploration and mining of uranium.

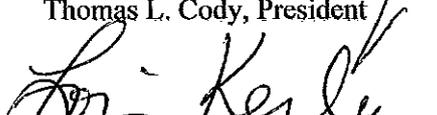
CERTIFICATION

We, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was properly presented at a duly called Western Navajo Agency Council Meeting at Sinagua Middle School, 3950 E. Butler Ave., Flagstaff, Arizona, where a quorum was presented and passed with a vote of 48 In Favor; 0 Opposed; and 2 Abstained on this 18 day of December, 2010.

Motion by: Evelyn Acapahlyn Second By: Irene White Miller


Thomas L. Cody, President


Yvonne Bigman, Vice-President


Louise Kerley, Secretary