

Kimberly MacMillan

From: **Leslie, Sheila Senator** <sleslie@sen.state.nv.us>

Date: Fri, Apr 1, 2011 at 11:20 AM

Subject: Grand Canyon - Uranium Mining

To: "NAZproposedwithdrawal@azblm.org" <NAZproposedwithdrawal@azblm.org>

Senator Sheila Leslie
Washoe District No. 1
Chair of Senate Committee on Revenue
Vice Chair Senate Committee on Finance
775-684-1433 Fax: 775-684-6522
401 South Carson Street, Suite 2121
Carson City, Nevada 89701

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SHEILA LESLIE

SENATOR
Washoe No. 1

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SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION

March 31, 2011

DISTRICT OFFICE:
825 Humboldt Street
Reno, Nevada 89509-2009
Office: (775) 333-6564

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
Office: (775) 684-1433 or
(775) 684-1400
Fax No.: (775) 684-6522
Email: sleslie@sen.state.nv.us
www.leg.state.nv.us

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

To the Honorable Ken Salazar:

I am writing to urge, with respect to the Draft Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Project, that the Bureau of Land Management issue a twenty-year withdrawal on the full one million acres under consideration. It is vital that we safeguard one of America's oldest and most well known national treasures and the principal source of water for millions of southern Nevadans – the Colorado River.

As a fifth-generation Coloradan, I am sure you are well aware of the environmental impacts that uranium mining creates. In addition to solid waste management, water management, and chemicals and emissions from milling there are also other catastrophic radiological impacts. The experience to date with uranium mining does not give rise to any sufficient degree of confidence, as past sites – even after significant rehabilitation works – are still showing problems with erosion and seepage and ongoing impacts on water quality.

It is devastating, not only to the environment but also to the visitors, that uranium mining is currently taking place in the Grand Canyon. A place described on the official website:

"The Park also serves as an ecological refuge, with relatively undisturbed remnants of dwindling ecosystems (such as boreal forest and desert riparian communities). It is home to numerous rare, endemic (found only at Grand Canyon), and specially protected (threatened/endangered) plant and animal species. Over 1,500 plant, 355 bird, 89 mammalian, 47 reptile, 9 amphibian, and 17 fish species are found in the park."

I strongly urge you to stop all new mining claims and approve the withdrawal of the full acreage proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Leslie".

Senator Sheila Leslie
Washoe District No. 1