



Terry Rambler
Chairman

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE

P.O. Box 0, San Carlos, Arizona 85550
Phone (928) 475-1600 ❖ Fax (928) 475-2567

Tao Etpison
Vice-Chairman

July 21, 2023

The Honorable Rep. Paul Gosar
U.S. House of Representatives
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rep. Andy Biggs
U.S. House of Representatives
252 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rep. Eli Crane
U.S. House of Representatives
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rep. Debbie Lesko
U.S. House of Representatives
1214 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Mike Collins
U.S. House of Representatives
1223 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Gosar, Biggs, Crane, Lesko and Collins:

On behalf of the over 17,000 members of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, I invite you to meet with Tribal leaders during your upcoming visit to Arizona to discuss substantive issues related to the proposed Resolution Copper Mine. We suggest meeting on sacred Apache ground at Oak Flat following your field hearing in Goodyear on Friday afternoon. The issues we propose to discuss include:

A. Resolution Copper Company's ties to Communist China

Facts

The United States currently [exports 25% of the copper concentrate](#) produced by the nation's 25 copper mines, according to the US Geological Survey. The U.S. has two operating copper smelters, neither of which has the capacity to process the projected 500,000 tons of copper concentrate that Resolution Copper Company projects will be produced annually. Resolution has stated it does not intend to build a smelter. Resolution Copper is a joint venture owned by foreign-based miners [Rio Tinto](#) (55%) and [BHP](#) (45%). Last year, more than half of

the sales from each company were to China. Rio Tinto's single largest shareholder is Chinalco, a Chinese state-owned aluminum producer, which controls nearly [15% of Rio Tinto's stock](#). China is by far the [world's leading importer](#) of copper concentrate. Resolution Copper has never definitively stated where it intends to process raw copper extracted from the Resolution Mine.

Discussion

Why are you supporting a project that will result in copper being mined from beneath land currently controlled by the U.S. Forest Service and exported overseas for processing, most likely to Communist China, where it will be used to grow the Chinese renewable energy economy rather than America's?

B. Resolution Copper will deplete groundwater aquifers in the East Salt River Valley

Facts

The Resolution Copper Mine will consume at least [775,000-acre feet of finite groundwater supplies \(250 billion gallons\)](#) in the East Salt River Valley. The amount is likely to be far higher based on Resolution Copper's technical reports. [Arizona groundwater laws](#) allow mining companies to pump unlimited amounts of groundwater without paying the state a dime. The Biden Administration is currently paying farmers, cities and Tribes [\\$1.2 billion](#) not to purchase Colorado River water over the next three years, equal to \$521 an AF. Resolution Copper's depletion of groundwater will only increase demand for surface water in the future. Based on the \$521 AF value for water in the Southwest, the state of Arizona will provide at least \$404 million worth of groundwater to Resolution Copper for free. At the same time Arizona is giving away groundwater for free, the [Arizona Department of Water Resources projects that East Salt River Valley](#) will be the most severely impacted by depleted aquifers.

Discussion

Why are you supporting a mining project that relies on a massive state groundwater subsidy that will ultimately destroy groundwater aquifers permanently damaging future, and far more sustainable, economic development in East Salt River Valley?

As we say in our Apache language, Ahi'yi'é (thank you) in advance for your review and consideration of our request for a meeting.

Sincerely,

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE



Terry Rambler
Chairman

Rep. Gosar, Biggs, Crane, Lesko and Collins
Re: Oak Flat and Resolution Copper Mining LLC
July 21, 2023
Page 3 of 3

Cc: Tom Van Flein, Rep. Gosar Chief of Staff, Tom.VanFlein@mail.house.gov
Rory Burke, Rep. Gosar Legislative Director, rory.burke@mail.house.gov
Kate LaBorde, Rep. Biggs Chief of Staff, Kate.LaBorde@mail.house.gov
Zach Barnes, Rep. Gosar Legislative Director, Zach.Barnes@mail.house.gov
Greg Smith, Rep. Crane Chief of Staff, greg.smith@mail.house.gov
Christina Barry, Rep. Crane Legislative Director, christina.barry@mail.house.gov
Rachel Harris, Rep. Lesko Chief of Staff, Rachel.harris@mail.house.gov
Annie Clark, Rep. Lesko Legislative Director, annie.clark@mail.house.gov
Brandon Phillips, Rep. Collins Chief of Staff, brandon.phillips@mail.house.gov
Kevin Petroccione, Rep. Collins Legislative Director, Kevin.Petroccione@mail.house.gov

Fawn Sharpe, President, NCAI, fawn.sharpe@ncai.org
Tribal Leaders of Arizona
C/o Maria Dadgar, Exec. Dir., ITCA, maria.dadgar@itcaonline.com

San Carlos Apache Tribe
Tao Etpison, Vice Chairman
San Carlos Council Members
A.B. Ritchie, AG, DOJ
Chrono