

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

March 17, 2021

Dear Mr. President,

As the Mayors of the municipalities in Arizona's Copper Corridor and County Supervisors of Gila and Pinal Counties, we are writing to you about a matter of critical importance: the completion and publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Resolution Copper Mine. We, along with many tribes and stakeholders in the region most affected by this proposed new mine, strongly support the long and arduous process that resulted in the publication of the FEIS in the *Federal Register* on January 15, 2021.

We are gravely concerned that any delay in completion and issuance of the FEIS for Resolution Copper will cause irreparable harm to our region and the precious way of life that we have always known. Further, we are equally concerned about the delay in the release of the Capstone Pinto Valley FEIS, for the same reason.

As leaders in Arizona's Copper Corridor, we are keenly aware of the role this industry serves in developing clean energy and continued technological advancement. We also have first-hand experience in navigating through the boom-and-bust cycles of the mining industry. We all have worked hard to create more resilient and economically diverse communities, and to become

less dependent on the extraction industry. The mining industry is important to our region and state, not only through the private capital investment and jobs that it generates, but also the other direct and indirect benefits that accrue to communities where it is based.

With respect to the Resolution Copper project, the FEIS and resulting land exchange will have a lasting effect on all of our communities, and in particular, in Superior where the mining operations will take place. We have actively participated in the process from the moment legislation was signed into law in 2014 as did every community and stakeholder in the region.

Ten of the 11 tribes in the region actively participated in the process as well. One tribe chose not to participate in the process and most likely has no intention of doing so. But, because they have objected vociferously and garnered sympathy from many individuals and the media in the U.S. and around the world who have never been to our region, this process has been halted. This is patently unfair to those communities, tribes and stakeholders that worked tirelessly to forge an agreement with the mine to mitigate many of the impacts from this activity.

Let us be clear: we love and honor our Native American brethren and sisters. Their voices must be heard and respected. They deserve a seat at the table. Ten tribes participated in this process and their voices need to be heard and respected too. And, so do the voices of small communities and stakeholders such as ours who see this new mine as an economic lifeline to our economically challenged communities.

We are acutely aware that no negotiation or process is perfect. However, the FEIS process did exactly what it was supposed to do by forcing all stakeholders to the table to negotiate the best outcomes for all involved. Delaying the release of these FEIS and including additional tribal consultation will only create more consternation in a process that has entailed more than seven years of earnest and arduous work. The mitigations that have been put into place through this process will provide our communities with the means to advance our economic development and achieve greater economic diversity.

With respect, we urge you to direct the immediate release of the Resolution Copper and Capstone Pinto Valley FEIS, consummate the Resolution Copper land exchange as required by law, and move this process forward for the benefit of the tribes and communities that fought hard to strengthen their communities.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your attention to these matters which are of critical importance to us all.

Most respectfully,

Mila Besich, Mayor
TOWN OF SUPERIOR



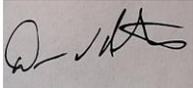
Jamie Ramsey, Mayor
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Town of Miami



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