

SENATOR T.J. SHOPE
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE 310
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
CAPITOL PHONE: (602) 926-3012
TOLL FREE: 1-800-352-8404
tshope@azleg.gov



Arizona State Senate

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DISTRICT 8

February 25, 2021

Reid Nelson
Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001
Delivered Via Email: rnelson@achp.gov

RE: Support for the Resolution Copper Programmatic Agreement

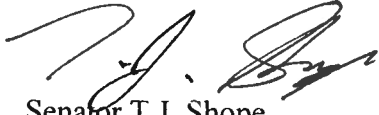
Dear Mr. Nelson:

As a member of the Arizona State Senate, representing District 8, I reach out to you on behalf of not only the individuals directly involved, but the thousands of people whose lives will benefit from the Resolution Copper project and Programmatic Agreement. Born and raised in Florence, Arizona, I have been fortunate enough to see the development and growth that has evolved throughout our desert oasis firsthand. Additionally, as an Arizona native, I have a personal attachment and appreciation for the unique beauty and culture our desert has to offer our great State. Now, as an Arizona State Senator, it is of the utmost importance that Arizona continues to succeed while upholding and cherishing our native roots. With the best interest of the communities of Arizona in mind, I strongly encourage ACHP to support and sign off for the Resolution Copper project.

This project is set to bring remarkable economic growth and development to Pinal County and the communities surrounding it. The copper mine is not only an opportunity for economic growth, millions of dollars in wages, and support of small businesses, the project represents Arizona's longstanding mining heritage. Furthermore, the Programmatic Agreement in complete alignment with Section 106 requirements considers years of consultation with Native American tribes and communities to ensure every person's voice has been heard. The Programmatic Agreement specifically spells out imperative measures to conserve the cultural heritage among our communities. Such measures include the Emory Oak Collaborative Tribal Restoration Initiative, Copper Triangle Cultural Heritage Preservation Fund, the development of an alternative Oak Flat Campground, and that is just the beginning. Further, the Final Record of Decision will trigger the preservation, development, and conservation of our beloved communities. Thus, the Resolution Copper Programmatic Agreement clearly represents the values of the Arizona people—development and growth while cherishing our cultural heritage.

Representing not only the countless groups and stakeholders supporting the project for years, but each community member of Arizona, I undoubtedly believe the Resolution Copper project is in the best interest of Arizona. I strongly request ACHP to reconsider its position on the Resolution Copper Programmatic Agreement and am hopeful ACHP will join the other signatories.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.J. Shope", written in a cursive style.

Senator T.J. Shope
State Senator of Arizona, District 8

Cc:

ACHP - resolutioncopper@achp.gov

USDA - Robert.bonnie@usda.gov

USFS - chris.french@usda.gov

USFS - victoria.christiansen@usda.gov

USFS - neil.bosworth@usda.gov

USFS - tom.torres@usda.gov