

Testimony on H.R. 1884 – To repeal section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, and for other purposes. Also known as the “Save Oak Flat Act.”

April 13, 2021

For consideration by the United States House
Subcommittee For Indigenous Peoples Of The United States
Committee on Natural Resources

Submitted by John Keedy, Chair
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Chairwoman Leger Fernandez, Ranking Member Don Young, full committee Chairman Grijalva and all of the distinguished committee members with a thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Queen Creek Coalition is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity that has been involved in saving rock climbing and related recreational resources that could be impacted by the Land Exchange and Mine proposed by Resolution Copper near Superior, Arizona.

It holds the Recreational Use License that allows recreation on Resolution’s private property and works with Resolution to manage that recreation. As part of negotiations that were begun around 2006 and continued forward through the Environmental Impact Study conducted by the United States Forest Service, QCC has been a central stakeholder seeking to maximize rock climbing and other recreation in the area. In the early years of 2006 to 2008 representatives of Queen Creek Coalition marched alongside members of the Native American community and sought an equitable solution for all.

However, while many stakeholders who remained in opposition based on inflexible positions, Queen Creek Coalition took the path of many other conservation and recreation groups and sought a “win-win” through negotiations. QCC found Resolution Copper very willing to work with stakeholders who were not inflexible. As a result, QCC reached an agreement in 2012 to maintain the recreation on Resolution’s private property as well as to work with Resolution and surrounding land owners such as the USFS to achieve a recreational greenbelt around the Mine.

The Land Exchange that was approved in 2015 was in fact a fair representation of the outcome of many years of negotiation among the parties who were willing to negotiate. It was a good outcome and should not be over-turned after many years of negotiation and good faith efforts by those willing to work toward a mutually acceptable goal.

Therefore, Queen Creek Coalition opposes House Bill 1884 and encourages Congress to reject it.