



U.A. LOCAL UNION 469

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April 9, 2021

The Honorable Representative Ruben Gallego
1131 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Gallego:

I am writing to you on behalf of the UA Local 469 Plumbers & Pipefitters Union, which proudly represents more than 3,500 Arizona working families, many of whom call the 7th Congressional District their home.

On April 13th, the House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples will hold a hearing on H.R. 1884, introduced by Chairman Grijalva to reverse the Congressionally approved land exchange between the U.S. and Resolution Copper. Since you are a member of the committee, I want to explain why we believe this short-sighted legislation would be a huge blow to Arizona's working families.

Copper is one of the most important metals needed to build our clean energy future, and Arizona is fortunate to have a plentiful supply. In order to make the Biden Administration's \$2 trillion infrastructure plan a reality, the country needs copper for manufacturing of electric vehicles, charging stations, wind turbines, solar panels, storage batteries, and even the transmission lines that connect renewable energy sources to the grid. We also need the rare earth critical minerals that are byproducts of copper.

Right now, there's a global copper crunch. In fact, The World Bank estimates that global copper demand could grow 200% over the next 30 years. There are only two smelters in the U.S. capable of producing copper today – one in Utah and one in Arizona. And China, in particular, is gaining fast.

That's why the Resolution Copper mine near Superior, Arizona, is a vital part of securing America's leadership in the global clean energy economy. Once fully operational, it has the potential to supply up to one-quarter of the nation's copper demand.

The mine will create thousands of good-paying jobs for Arizona workers. Resolution Copper has worked closely with the Arizona Building Trades to ensure union workers and apprentices will be

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a part of building this important project on a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). Resolution Copper will employ nearly 5,000 tradespersons during its 10-year construction and ramp-up phases, many of whom have tribal affiliations. Once completed, the mine could be in operation for sixty years, paying an estimated \$134 million in wages and benefits each year to 1,500 full time employees. In addition, the mine will create 2,200 indirect jobs in the surrounding communities, benefiting the families of many workers and tribes in the area and boosting the tax base to support schools and other local infrastructure projects.

Resolution Copper represents precisely the type of long-term investment in our economic future that Arizona so urgently needs. And we are proud it was informed by consultation with hundreds of local community stakeholders, like tribal leaders and the trade unions, in the seven-year federal planning and permitting process surrounding this project.

Chairman Grijalva's legislation threatens to stall this project indefinitely and slow our ability to address America's copper crunch. Passing this bill would deny much-needed job opportunities to our union members and also mean a huge step backward in our country's efforts to implement progressive energy policies and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

America, and the world, needs copper for a sustainable future. Arizona workers and their families need it for a prosperous future. We can have both with projects like this one. I urge you to not support this short-sighted legislation.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me should you have any further questions about our position on this matter.

Sincerely,



Aaron Butler
Business Manager
UA Local 469

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