



April 16, 2021

**RE: 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."**

Dear Chairman Fernandez and Members of the United States House Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States:

Patagonia, an outdoor clothing company based in California, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments 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*. Our company strongly supports H.R.1884.

Patagonia is an outdoor-apparel company with a 50-year history of environmental activism. Protecting and preserving the environment is a core business tenet as reflected in the Company's mission statement: "Patagonia is in business to save our home planet." In 2012, Patagonia became a California benefit corporation, enshrining its blended goals of business and conservation into its Articles of Incorporation. Patagonia believes deeply in the urgent shared responsibility to protect the environment. The future of Patagonia's business depends on the health of the wild places that its customers explore, which includes Oak Flat.

Oak Flat, also known as Chi'chil Bildagoteel to the Apache people, would be decimated by Resolution Copper's proposed mine, slated to be one of the world's largest copper mines and the biggest in North America. This area is sacred to the Apache people and a premier rock-climbing destination with hundreds of iconic routes. The mine will result in a surface crater approximately two miles wide and 1,000 feet deep—consuming Oak Flat and all the sacred sites and recreational resources within it.

America's public lands and outdoor recreation play a vital role in our economy and can be powerful forces in stimulating recovery in the years ahead. Prior to the pandemic, the outdoor industry was growing faster than the rest of the economy, generating [\\$88.7](#) billion in consumer spending annually, as well as supporting 7.6 million jobs that can't be outsourced or automated. In Arizona alone, where Oak Flat is located, the outdoor recreation industry brings 110,000 direct jobs and \$1.4 billion in state and local tax revenue.

Over the past year with the COVID pandemic, we've seen significant increases in recreation on our public lands, underscoring the critical need to protect these resources and the local economies they support from threats like the Resolution Copper mine. Rock climbers account for the greatest number of recreational user days at the Oak Flat/Queen Creek area and stand to suffer the largest destruction of climbing resources ever on public lands in this country if the proposed mining activities are allowed.

For all these reasons, we strongly believe that the Resolution Copper mine should not move forward and that the land transfer initiated by Section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act should be revoked. Patagonia joins The Access Fund, Apache Stronghold, the San Carlos Apache tribe, the Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona, the National Congress of American Indians, and other environmental organizations in supporting H.R. 1884.

Sincerely,

Ryan Gellert  
CEO, Patagonia

