

19 April 2021

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.  
Attn: Qay-liwh.Ammon@mail.house.gov

re: Support for H.R. 1884/S. 915, the Save Oak Flat Act

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

On behalf of an international coalition of communities impacted by Rio Tinto, we write to express strong support for H.R. 1884/S. 915, the Save Oak Flat Act.

It is our understanding that Rio Tinto and BHP -- through their joint venture Resolution Copper Mining, LLC -- seek to destroy Oak Flat in southeastern Arizona to develop a massive copper mine.

We know first-hand what will happen if Rio Tinto/BHP/Resolution Copper are allowed to develop this mine. The countries that make up our alliance include: Serbia, Mongolia, the UK, and Australia - among others - and we have all experienced an enormous amount of atrocity because of their mining operations.

Two messages from communities impacted by Rio Tinto's operations:

1) : In Mongolia, nomadic herders who are not recognized as pastoralists - practicing indigenous nomadic livestock breeding livelihoods - have lost and are still losing more pasture and access to water as the mine expands its operations. None of the promises made by Rio Tinto to not affect and/or mitigate negative impacts on the traditional pastures and water resources in this desert region were fulfilled to date. Compensations provided in 2004 resettlement and 2011 economic displacement were inadequate due to little to no desire to understand the specificity of nomadic herding and its needs. The proof of this is the winter camp built for resettled herders which has a summer house on it. If one truly understood the basics of nomadism why would they build a summer house on a winter camp? Or was that an upfront statement "from now on you shall live settled life as there will be no pasture to roam?"

2) In Serbia people are currently fighting the opening of a toxic lithium 'Jadar' mine that would severely jeopardize surrounding rich and biodiverse areas, pollute their rivers and destroy their

farmlands. They are determined to defend it with their lives and they support the fight to save Oak Flat

Thank you for considering our views and your efforts to stop these mining conglomerates from harming more people.

Sincerely,

Zoe Lujic  
Earth Thrive  
Serbia/United Kingdom

Guadalupe Rodríguez  
Salva la Selva  
Spain

Yvonne Orengo  
Andrew Lees Trust  
United Kingdom

Battsengel Lhamdoorov  
Gobi Soil  
Mongolia

Aleksandra Velimanović  
Ngo Nimbus Loznica  
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Polly Walker  
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United States

Natalie Lowrey  
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Marija Alimpić Katsakiori  
Zaštitimo Jadar i Rađevinu  
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Dina Hopstad Rui  
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Richard Solly  
London Mining Network  
London, United Kingdom

Sukhgerel Dugersuren  
Oyu Tolgoi Watch  
Mongolia