



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

National Advocacy Center
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June 5, 2019

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Chair
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Young
Ranking Member
1329 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Haaland and Ranking Member Young,

The Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) and National Wildlife Federation (NWF) write in support of H.R. 1373, the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act. We appreciate you scheduling this legislation for a hearing.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation was founded in 1923 to take politics out of fish and game management and promote the scientific management of Arizona's natural resources. AWF engages its approximately 5000 members and supporters in the state to educate, inspire, and assist individuals and organizations to value, conserve, enhance, manage, and protect wildlife and wildlife habitat.

The National Wildlife Federation, one of America's largest conservation organizations, has worked for over eighty years to unite Americans from all walks of life in giving a voice to wildlife. NWF has 51 state and territorial affiliates and more than 6 million members and supporters, including hunters, anglers, gardeners, birders, hikers, campers, paddlers, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

We support the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act because it would help protect the health of local tribes, the water quality of the Colorado River, and numerous wildlife species, while still allowing for the multiple-use of these public lands. Despite the Department of Interior's mineral withdrawal for the area, it is crucial that Congress act to permanently protect the lands around Grand Canyon National Park. Future uranium mining could irreparably harm the health of local residents, their water supply, and the wildlife that call this place home.

Uranium mining around the Grand Canyon has been a controversial chapter in the region's history—one which we should not exacerbate. The mining that once supported the Cold War left a toxic legacy of health issues for Native American tribes and billions of dollars in clean-up costs for U.S. taxpayers. A recent study by the National Institutes of Health shows the many negative health effects inflicted on Native Americans due to uranium mining.

The potential threat of a new uranium mining boom in the American Southwest is real. Just this week the Department of Interior released “A Federal Strategy to Ensure a Reliable Supply of Critical Minerals,” which includes a new nationwide minerals mapping effort and fast-tracking permit approvals for new mines. The Trump administration aims to apply its misguided “energy dominance” agenda for oil and gas to minerals and push a new era of “mining dominance” for the entire country. In addition, the Department of Commerce is considering import quotas on uranium, which could cause a 500-percent increase in domestic production. This is the wrong approach for Arizona, and our nation.

President Theodore Roosevelt famously said the Grand Canyon is ‘a natural wonder which is in kind absolutely unparalleled throughout the rest of the world.’ It is too special to risk with reckless uranium mining. A permanent mineral withdrawal around the Grand Canyon is simply the right thing to do.

Thank you for scheduling this important legislation. We urge the committee's full support.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tracy Stone-Manning

Tracy Stone-Manning
Associate Vice President, Public Lands
National Wildlife Federation

/s/ Brad Powell

Brad Powell
President
Arizona Wildlife Federation