



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I was very disappointed by the Department of Agriculture's (Department) actions on March 1st to direct the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to reverse completed federal actions for the Resolution Copper Mine and Land Exchange Project.

Resolution Copper is a vital project for economic development that will also ensure a reliable supply of copper and other critical minerals for the nation. The project is estimated to be able to supply up to 1 billion pounds of copper annually, which represents 25% of the U.S. domestic demands. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) estimates that the total direct and indirect economic impacts to the State of Arizona will total \$1 billion per year.

Arizona state agencies have been closely involved in the lengthy and thorough process that produced the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Draft Record of Decision. I have high confidence in the process and the resulting documents. The unprecedented retroactive step of rescinding a FEIS is very troubling and has implications beyond this single project. The vast amount of Federal land in Arizona means that federal actions, such as the completion of an EIS, are a fact of life for many large and important projects in our state. Discretionary retroactive decisions such as this one will cast a shadow on any large infrastructure project in the state and create uncertainty for these projects. Such actions cannot continue.

I respectfully request an opportunity to discuss with you the timeline for the Department to get the project back on track, as well as how the Department will treat other existing permits and projects in Arizona. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor  
State of Arizona

Cc: Vicki Christiansen, Chief, U.S. Forest Service