

April 2, 2021

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

RE: Request to Complete and Publish the EIS for Resolution Copper Mining in Arizona

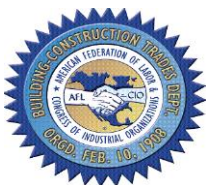
Dear Secretary Vilsack:

As the President of the Arizona State Building and Construction Trades Council (AZBTC), I represent thousands of professional craftspeople who are members of our 15 building trade-affiliated unions. I write to you today to respectfully request that the USDA and the USFS complete and publish the Environmental Impact Statement for the land exchange for the Resolution Copper Project in Arizona.

Delaying the land exchange for the Resolution Copper Mine project near Superior denies thousands of Arizonans high-paying, quality jobs and suppresses millions of dollars in much-needed economic investment in our region's economy.

The Resolution Copper Mine is a big step forward in our country's efforts to implement progressive energy policies and mitigate the impact of climate change. Arizona workers support the Biden Administration's Build Back Better initiatives and the "Buy Clean, Buy American" sentiment that goes with it. Copper mining and production are essential to manufacturing of electronics and medical equipment, as well as the implementation of green technologies and proposed clean energy projects. Our country's future depends on copper, and Arizona, with its rich copper deposits, is poised to play its role to create a cleaner future for our children and grandchildren. Arizona's union workers are trained and ready to be part of these green solutions.

Arizona's workers deserve quality jobs that provide livable wages and benefits, and delaying or denying the land exchange would take jobs away from the hardworking union members of our state. AZBTC and Resolution Copper Mines have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that ensures that union labor will be used during the construction, operation and shut-down phases of the mine over the next 50 years. A properly trained and experienced workforce is critical to economic growth, and by partnering with AZBTC, Resolution Copper Mining is demonstrating its commitment to generations of Arizona's highly skilled workers. The mine will create more quality jobs for residents of the Copper Triangle, including those with tribal affiliations and armed services veterans. Resolution Copper Mine will employ nearly 5,000 tradespersons during



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its 10-year construction and ramp-up phases. Once completed, the mine will employ 1,500 during its projected 40 years of operation, paying an estimated \$134 million in wages and benefits each year. Many of these jobs will be staffed by union members who have highly specialized training and experience that prioritizes safety, efficiency and quality craftsmanship.

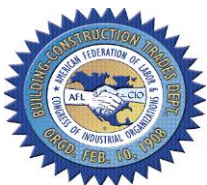
Resolution Copper Mining has actively engaged the public in every step of this seven-year planning and permitting process, which started under the Obama administration and garnered bipartisan support including that of late Senator John McCain. Because of public input, this project includes protections for tribal sacred sites and sensitive ecosystems to ensure that the land and its history are preserved for generations to revere and enjoy. The building trades community, which includes members who live in Southeastern Arizona and have tribal affiliations, have added their voices in support of this project because they know that it will provide opportunities for generations of workers, and enable them to stay close to their families and communities. The mine will create an additional 2,200 indirect and induced jobs in the surrounding communities, which will benefit the workers' families and tribes in the area. These investments will revitalize small towns, boost the tax base to support schools and infrastructure, and grow the local economy to lift up the middle class.

I am proud to be the voice of Arizona's workers and their families, especially on a matter that is so very important to the future of Arizona's workforce and economy. I would like to request a meeting with you and your staff to further discuss the Resolution Copper Mine project.

Sincerely,



Aaron Butler
President, Arizona Building & Construction Trades Council
Business Manager, UA Local 469 Plumbers & Pipefitters



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