



al and Southern Gila Counties.

Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition

February 25, 2021

Reid Nelson
Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001
Delivered Via Email: rnelson@achp.gov

RE: Support for the Resolution Copper Programmatic Agreement

Dear Mr. Nelson,

The Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition (CCEDC) represents and supports the communities along the Copper Corridor in Arizona, including Superior, Kearny, Hayden, and Winkelman. Our mission is to attract, create, and retain quality jobs and businesses and to support community leadership; and we have engaged and supported the Resolution Copper project for over a decade, participating in good faith and providing comments along the way.

As President of the CCEDC, I write to you in support of the Resolution Copper Project, the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and most importantly, the Programmatic Agreement, all of which have been the subject of a rigorous review and engagement process for more than seven years. The CCEDC is incredibly disappointed to hear of the ACHP's actions to terminate the Programmatic Agreement at the last minute, after years of participation and after all other federal and state agencies have signed.

The CCEDC understands and appreciates that the Programmatic Agreement incorporates significant cultural heritage preservation measures created through nearly a decade worth of discussions with Native American Tribes and local communities in the Copper Triangle. Mining and ranching history has been a fabric in the communities that the CCEDC serves and the Programmatic Agreement and the NEPA process show how historic preservation and economic growth can be balanced.

The CCEDC supports the mitigation measures lined out in the Programmatic Agreement, including the construction of the Castleberry Campground and the cultural heritage fund to preserve historic and cultural character in the towns in the Copper

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Corridor. This is an innovative and impressive balance of historic preservation and local economic diversification.

This recent decision by the ACHP tells the CCEDC and other local organizations that our participation and voices do not matter. It is disheartening to see that ACHP has put a single focus and sole importance on one group of stakeholders; and not all who participated fully in this process.

The CCEDC urges you to reconsider ACHP's position on the Programmatic Agreement as quickly as possible, so all communities and stakeholders can benefit from the mitigations agreed upon for this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Programmatic Agreement and the CCEDC looks forward to seeing this project move forward without further delay.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tino Flores". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Celestino "Tino" Flores

President

Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition

CC:

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