



ARIZONA MINING ASSOCIATION

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**APRIL 11, 2016 CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING ON ANTIQUITIES ACT AND
PROPOSED GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT
Testimony of Kelly Shaw-Norton, President of the Arizona Mining Association.**

- For the record, I am Kelly Shaw-Norton, President of the Arizona Mining Association
- The Arizona Mining Association (AMA) is a non-profit corporation comprised of entities engaged in mining and mineral processing in Arizona. Its members include (but are not limited to): ASARCO LLC, BHP Copper Inc., Freeport-McMoRan, Capstone- Pinto Valley, KGHM - Carlota Copper Company, Hudbay - Rosemont Project, Resolution Copper Company, Florence Copper, Energy Fuels, Peabody Energy, and Golden Vertex. In 2013, AMA member companies produced approximately 65% of the nation's newly-mined copper, along with significant amounts of associated valuable co-products (e.g., gold, silver, selenium, tellurium and molybdenum). In 2013, the Arizona copper industry employed approximately 11,500 people and had an estimated direct and indirect impact on the Arizona economy of nearly \$5 billion. AMA members also are engaged in the mining of coal, uranium and other materials, and make significant contributions to the Arizona economy as a result of those activities. The AMA is the unified voice of responsible, sustainable and safe mining in Arizona. We support educational programs that demonstrate the importance and benefits of mining to the economy and the quality of life.
- I want to thank Congressmen Gosar for the opportunity to speak today on the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument withdrawal.
- The Arizona Mining Association has been tracking this proposal since the Obama Administration withdrew 1.2 million acres from mining and multi-use in 2012 in the same area in Arizona.
- The Antiquities Act was intended as a tool to set aside “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.” It was not meant to be used for expansive amounts of land without public input and Congressional approval.
- The proposed monument area which is another 1.7 million acres has been successfully managed for a very long time for multi-use by the Arizona Game & Fish Department, BLM, and US Fish and Wildlife. Transferring its management to the National Park Service who has been struggling to maintain the current land under its control would be a mistake.
- It is concerning that this proposed area also includes 64,000 acres of State Trust Land and 28,000 acres of private land. Without knowing what restrictions will be placed on the monument once it’s established, there is no guarantee that private landowners or the state would be able to access, use, develop, or transfer their property.
- As Arizonan’s we are all concerned about water. In the documentation we have seen it is unclear what portion of this monument is actually protecting the watershed. Most of the included land isn’t anywhere near the Grand Canyon.

- The withdrawal of this land from multi-use management will restrict reasonable and thoughtful use of natural resources. Industries affected include recreation, grazing, forestry, hunting & fishing, energy development, and mining.
- I have heard arguments and read statements in the media that this monument is necessary to prevent uranium mining.
- Uranium is fuel for nuclear energy, providing over 60% of the emission-free and carbon-free electricity in the U.S. today. We need to rely on the deposits in our country instead of being reliant on the rest of the world for our uranium supply.
- We cannot let those who want to remove this land from natural resource management use scare tactics about water contamination.
- Uranium mining today is not like it was in the 70's. It is a highly regulated industry enforced by federal, state, and local authority.
- There has been a lot of discussion about Uranium mining contaminating the Colorado River but the AZ Geological Survey has found that "130,000 pounds of naturally-occurring uranium flows down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon each year, not from past or present mining, but because uranium is a part of the natural environment."
- These lands historically provide a large portion of metals and hard rock minerals produced in and used by our country. If this area is designated as a national monument, existing claims would remain but we all know that any new mines would not be allowed to open in a designated national monument.
- It is no secret that most of the western states are trying to minimize the overreach of the federal government.
- The decisions on the establishment of this and all national monuments in Arizona need to come from the state of Arizona.
- The state of Arizona has overwhelmingly said it does not want this monument. This includes the Governor, AG, State Land Commissioner, Legislature, Congressional delegation, cities, towns, and over 50 associations involved in the multiple uses found in our state.
- The Arizona Mining Association and its members do not think this monument is necessary.

Sincerely,



Kelly Shaw-Norton
President, Arizona Mining Association