

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

June 29, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW

Dear Secretary Zinke,

On November 8, 2017, we wrote to President Trump requesting that the Grand Canyon Mineral Withdrawal be sustained to protect the valuable water resources, fish, and wildlife habitat that support our state's communities and outdoor recreation economy. We were pleased to see a June 19, 2018 tweet and subsequent comments by the DOI Press Secretary that you intend to do just that.

Public Land Order Number 7787, "Withdrawal of Public and National Forest System Lands in the Grand Canyon Watershed," has preserved our water and lands so that future generations of Americans can enjoy these beautiful natural areas free of contamination and risks to their health. As stewards of our public lands, it is essential that we safeguard the environment and the local economies near our iconic National Parks. In 2017, the Grand Canyon had 6.2 million visitors, which supported over 9,400 jobs and \$940 million in local economic benefit. The Grand Canyon and the surrounding lands support good jobs in hospitality and unique outdoor recreation sectors.

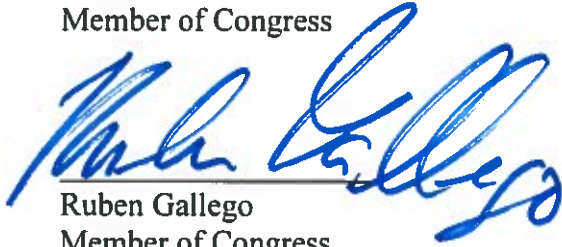
Uranium mining and processing in northern Arizona have left a grim and costly legacy of pollution and human health consequences. There are currently over 500 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation, which have yet to be addressed. These mines have resulted in cancer and disease for many Arizonans. Spending on the cleanup of these mines has already totaled more than \$1 billion and estimates suggest that a complete cleanup will require billions more to be spent. The simple fact is that the withdrawal protects public health and safety, preserves our public lands, water, and our economy.

Considering the importance of this issue to Arizonans, we request a formal, official response affirming and clarifying that you will indeed continue to support the Grand Canyon Mineral Withdrawal Order as an important step to protect one of America's greatest national treasures. As you have stated, "some areas are too precious to mine." The Grand Canyon is unquestionably one of those areas. We look forward to your commitment to preserving this invaluable treasure for future generations.

Sincerely,



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Raúl M Grijalva
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress