

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President, United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As Members representing communities whose public health and economy depend on the Grand Canyon Watershed, we write to urge you to not modify Public Land Order Number 7787; Withdrawal of Public and National Forest System Lands in the Grand Canyon Watershed; Arizona. This order protects the Grand Canyon, the Lower Colorado River Basin, and communities throughout Arizona. For years, this order has preserved our water and lands and ensured that future generations of Americans can enjoy our pristine, natural wonders. As stewards of our public lands, it is our duty to safeguard the environment and the local economies that support our national parks.

Record numbers of people from around the world are visiting the Grand Canyon. Last year, there were nearly 6 million visitors to the Grand Canyon. These tourists spent nearly \$650 million and created 9,779 local jobs, which combines to a cumulative contribution to the local economy of more than \$900 million. These numbers show continued, sustainable growth in the economy of rural Arizona. We cannot jeopardize the health of the park, its employees, visitors, and residents, nor can we risk jobs in our rural communities at a time of critical economic recovery.

The history of uranium mining and production in Arizona's rural communities has had severe health consequences for not only our constituents, but also people across the West. To this day, the federal government has yet to clean up the legacy mines in northern Arizona or address the specialized health care needs of uranium miners, millers and haulers in the Southwest. That's why the Havasupai Tribe, the Hualapai Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the Navajo Nation all support Public Land Order 7787. During the last administration's transparent review, the Department of Interior processed over 300,000 public comments, an overwhelming majority of which expressed support for the full million-acre withdrawal. These voices cannot be ignored. Rather than allowing activities that will have a serious impact on our health, economy and environment, we encourage you to address the legacy mines in the region which continue to jeopardize the health of children and families.

On the Navajo Nation, there are over 500 abandoned uranium mines which the federal government shares responsibility for addressing. These mines have yet to be cleaned up and pose serious health risks. In Sanders, Arizona, uranium contaminated the school's drinking water supply and has only been partially addressed. We encourage you to work with Congress to address the legacy of uranium, rather than open some of our most treasured public lands to this dangerous activity.

Lifting Public Land Order Number 7787 will jeopardize the health of our Arizonans and our visitors, and it has the potential to cause irreparable damage to the Grand Canyon. We urge you to keep this important policy in place for the wellbeing of current and future Arizonans and Americans.

Sincerely,



Tom O'Halleran
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress