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Introduced by
Representatives Jones, Konopnicki: Barto, Crandall, Hendrix, Kavanagh,
Mason, Pratt, Quelland

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REFRAIN FROM ENACTING ANY LEGISLATION
AFFECTING ARIZONA'S PUBLIC LANDS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the United States Congress, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management
2 and the Chief of the United States Forest Service:

3 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

4 Whereas, currently, Arizona lands are significantly encumbered and
5 controlled by a variety of federally managed public lands and other
6 government designations, including 12.2 million acres of Bureau of Land
7 Management surface lands and an additional 17.5 million acres of subsurface,
8 11.4 million acres of United States Forest Service lands, 7.9 million acres
9 of military installations and 24.7 million acres of Indian tribal lands; and

10 Whereas, the United States House of Representative's Committee on
11 Natural Resources passed a resolution to withdraw nearly 1.1 million acres of
12 land from new mining claims and exploration; and

13 Whereas, the people of Arizona rely on access to public lands for a
14 large number of economic, infrastructure and recreational purposes, including
15 mining, oil and natural gas development, grazing, outdoor recreation and
16 rights of way for transportation, waterlines, electric transmission and
17 telecommunication lines; and

18 Whereas, the state of Arizona's economy relies on these important
19 industries to fuel its economy and tax base; and

20 Whereas, energy price increases have a disproportionately negative
21 impact on Arizona's poor individuals and families; and

22 Whereas, Arizona schools, as well as state and local government, are
23 among the benefactors of access to Arizona public lands; and

24 Whereas, the Arizona Strip is estimated by the United States Geological
25 Survey to contain uranium with the energy equivalent of 375 billion barrels
26 of oil, an amount equal to the total recoverable oil from the Alaskan
27 pipeline through Prudhoe Bay; and

28 Whereas, the area is currently mining flagstone, sand and gravel, is
29 known to have vanadium and may have copper and other minerals; and

30 Whereas, the world's shortage of uranium continues to escalate and our
31 country continues to import more than three-fourths of the uranium we use
32 from foreign sources; and

33 Whereas, uranium production will significantly reduce the United
34 States' energy vulnerability; and

35 Whereas, in the 1980s, uranium mining operations existed that have now
36 been so well reclaimed that it is difficult to discern where these mines
37 existed; and

38 Whereas, there are no known detrimental effects of mining uranium in
39 the area to the waters of the Grand Canyon or to the health and safety of the
40 miners or surrounding communities; and

41 Whereas, the effort by Congress to withdraw these lands from new mining
42 claims and exploration will cost Arizona hundreds of millions of dollars in
43 lost revenues that help fund local communities and schools; and

1 Whereas, locking away much of Arizona's valuable mineral resources from
2 environmentally sound development not only hurts Arizona economically, but
3 also weakens America by hamstringing the production of more energy in Arizona
4 and the nation.

5 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
6 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

7 1. That the United States Congress refrain from passing any new
8 legislation to withdraw any lands in Arizona from mining, and refrain from
9 enacting any wilderness designations in Arizona without the unanimous support
10 of Arizona's congressional delegation.

11 2. That the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest
12 Service not limit the public's access to public lands under their
13 jurisdiction for mining, grazing, recreation or other uses.

14 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
15 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
16 the United States House of Representatives, the Director of the Bureau of
17 Land Management, the Chief of the United States Forest Service and each
18 Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.