

REFERENCE TITLE: **hardrock mining industry; recognition**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fourth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2020

HCR 2014

Introduced by
Representative Griffin

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

**RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HARDROCK MINING INDUSTRY TO ARIZONA'S
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, hardrock mining has played a central role in the
2 development of Arizona's economy since before statehood; and
3 Whereas, copper produced from hardrock mining is one of the "Five
4 C's" that established Arizona's economy and continues to provide quality
5 jobs for Arizona residents; and
6 Whereas, copper and other minerals produced through the hardrock
7 mining process are critical to developing and manufacturing low-carbon
8 energy sources, including PV cells, wind turbines, electric vehicles,
9 medical equipment and battery storage; and
10 Whereas, each 3MW wind turbine requires approximately 4.7 tons of
11 copper to produce reliable low-carbon energy; and
12 Whereas, PV cell production accounts for seven percent of global
13 silver demand; and
14 Whereas, the World Bank estimates that in the next twenty-five years
15 the world will need 550 million tons of copper, which is equal to all the
16 copper produced in the previous five thousand years, to meet low-carbon
17 energy demands; and
18 Whereas, according to the United States Geological Survey, Arizona
19 was second in the nation in the value of 2018 nonfuel mineral production.
20 Nonfuel mineral production includes sand and gravel, cement and crushed
21 stone as well as copper and other minerals such as molybdenum, lead, zinc,
22 gold, silver, coal and uranium; and
23 Whereas, Arizona has been the nation's top producer of copper for
24 more than a century, delivering two-thirds of United States copper exports
25 and sixty-eight percent of the nation's copper; and
26 Whereas, mining activity and employment opportunities are
27 distributed widely throughout the state and provide economic benefits for
28 every Arizona county; and
29 Whereas, the hardrock mining industry is Arizona's second largest
30 industry by economic impact, directly and indirectly employing more than
31 38,900 individuals with an average income higher than Arizona's median
32 wage in 2018; and
33 Whereas, the hardrock mining industry directly and indirectly
34 generated \$370 million in state and local tax revenues, creating a total
35 economic impact of \$11.4 billion in 2018; and
36 Whereas, the hardrock mining industry is regulated by a combination
37 of state and federal agencies, including the Arizona Department of
38 Environmental Quality, the United States Environmental Protection Agency,
39 the Arizona State Mine Inspector's Office and the United States Department
40 of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration, to ensure that mining
41 operations are safe for employees, communities and the environment.

1 Therefore

2 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
3 the Senate concurring:

4 That the Members of the Legislature recognize the importance of the
5 hardrock mining industry to Arizona's economy and support the involvement
6 of Arizona's government and the hardrock mining industry in any future
7 regulatory changes to ensure that operations continue to be safe and
8 productive for the State of Arizona.