



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
Representative Walt Blackman (R-7)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Monday, August 4, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Blackman Urges Federal Approval of Long-Awaited Resolution Copper Project to Deliver High-Wage Jobs, Economic Development

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative Walt Blackman, Chairman of the House Government Committee, on Friday expressed strong support for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) completed this year by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for the Resolution Copper project. In a letter to the USFS, he urged the agency to move forward with the final land exchange authorized by Congress in 2015.

“The Resolution Copper project is a rare opportunity to strengthen Arizona’s economy—especially in the historic Copper Corridor and across District 7,” said Representative Blackman. **“It will bring high-wage jobs, critical infrastructure investments, and lasting economic support for local businesses.”**

The project is expected to generate thousands of construction jobs initially, with long-term mining operations sustaining employment and economic activity for decades. With average mining wages in Arizona exceeding \$100,000 annually, Representative Blackman believes the project offers meaningful opportunities for working families throughout the district.

The FEIS is the result of more than a decade of environmental review and includes input from tribal governments, local communities, and other stakeholders. More than 23 local organizations have signed Good Neighbor Agreements with Resolution Copper to support responsible development and long-term management of the area.

“Resolution Copper has made a genuine effort to work with the community and earn local support—truly being a good neighbor,” Representative Blackman said. **“This project is ready to move forward, and it’s time it does. I urge the Forest Service to act without further delay.”**

A copy of his letter is attached.

Representative Walt Blackman is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 7 and is Chairman of the House Government Committee. Follow him on X at @BlackmanForAZ.

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DISTRICT 7

Arizona House of Representatives Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Ms. Ericka Luna
Acting Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest
2324 East McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Dear Acting Forest Supervisor Luna:

August 1, 2025

I would like to express my support for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) prepared by the U.S. Forest Service for the Resolution Copper land exchange.

As a legislator, I chair the House Committee on Government, which considers legislation that impacts the nearly 100 incorporated cities and towns, as well as all 15 counties, in the State of Arizona every day. I'm also proud to represent the Copper Corridor, an area of the state that has helped drive Arizona's historical dominance of U.S. copper production. Much like it did for them in the past, I hope to see the mining industry provide good-paying jobs and sustainable economic growth into the future.

The Resolution Copper project could be the type of major anchor employer the Town of Superior and the Copper Corridor have been seeking for years. It is expected to create thousands of construction jobs at the outset, and support thousands more during a multi-decade mine operation. The average mining wage in Arizona is approximately \$100,000, making these jobs the type that can transform people's lives. The project should also provide a much-needed boost to local businesses and tens of millions in new tax revenue to state and local governments every year. This will ensure that long-awaited investments for public roads and essential services are made.

The FEIS is the result of more than ten years of substantive National Environmental Policy Act analysis. Countless stakeholders – from tribal governments to local communities – have provided helpful input that will ensure environmental and cultural resources are appropriately managed and the project continues to be developed in an accountable manner.

Resolution Copper has also done an admirable job of centering stakeholder input in project development. Over the past decade, the company's Community Working Group has helped develop mitigation strategies and outline shared goals. More than 23 local municipalities and other organizations have signed a Good Neighbor Agreement that should help establish a framework for the collaborative, long-term management of the land and community interests throughout Resolution's mine life.

I appreciate the U.S. Forest Service's diligence in completing the substantial FEIS process. I ask that you proceed with the final land exchange, as authorized by Congress in Section 3003 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, as soon as the law allows. It is long past time for this important mining project to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration.
Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Blackman', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Representative Walt Blackman
Legislative District 7
Arizona House of Representatives