



STATE OF ARIZONA

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March 14, 2008

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
United States Representative
1440 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
via facsimile: 202.225.1541

Dear Representative Grijalva:

Thank you for introducing H.R. 4228, *Southern Arizona Public Lands Protection Act of 2007 (Act)*, to withdraw certain lands in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona from mining and mineral leases. While mining will always be a vital part of Arizona's economy, there are certain places where mining is simply not appropriate, such as the lands identified in H.R. 4228.

Arizona has changed dramatically since the passage of the General Mining Act of 1872. We recognize the importance of healthy watersheds, wildlife habitat and recreation for our communities. There is no longer a need to incentivize the development of the west; we are the fastest growing area in the Country. We need to ensure we have the opportunity to respond to the modern economic realities and attitudes concerning land use and the environment for our future generations.

While there is a clear need to maintain a vital mining industry in Arizona, we must balance that with environmental concerns – we cannot return to mining practices of the past and leave our communities in an economic and environmental crisis. Hence the need for overall mining reform. In the meantime, we need to recognize that there are areas where mining should never occur, such as those identified in the Act. I am hopeful Congress will recognize the importance of moving this bill quickly to protect these special areas in southern Arizona.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue in southern Arizona. Should you need additional information, please contact Lori Faeth, Senior Policy Advisor for Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment at 602-542-1334 or by email at lfaeth@az.gov.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Napolitano".

Janet Napolitano
Governor