

House Engrossed

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-ninth Legislature
First Regular Session
2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2006

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 Secretary of the Department of the
2 Interior, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief
3 of the United States Forest Service:

4 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Whereas, the Arizona Strip is estimated by the United States Geological
26 Survey to contain 375 million pounds of uranium oxide with the energy
27 equivalent of 13 billion barrels of oil, an amount equal to the total
28 recoverable oil from the Alaskan pipeline through Prudhoe Bay; and

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

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

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

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

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

42 Whereas, the effort by Congress to withdraw these lands from new mining
43 claims and exploration will cost Arizona hundreds of millions of dollars in
44 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 Secretary of the Department
17 of the Interior, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Chief of
18 the United States Forest Service and each Member of Congress from the State
19 of Arizona.

Passed the House June 17, 20 09

by the following vote: 36 Ayes,

17 Nays, 7 Not Voting

[Signature]
Speaker of the House

[Signature]
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate July 1, 20 09

by the following vote: 19 Ayes,

7 Nays, 4 Not Voting

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Resolution received by the Secretary of State

this 1st day of July, 20 09

at 8:27 o'clock A M.

[Signature]
Secretary of State

H.C.M. 2006