



Sept. 10, 2007

U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords
1661 North Swan, Suite 112
Tucson, AZ 85712

Dear Representative Giffords:

Enclosed are letters from 33 Arizonans expressing their opposition to the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange. They were written by citizens who attended a Saturday, Aug. 11, 2007, public event on Main Street in downtown Superior concerning the proposed Resolution Copper mine.

A serious deficiency with this legislation is the lack of public oversight which the proposed legislation fails to provide. By privatizing public U.S. Forest Service land this mining company escapes the transparency provided to the public by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This loss of public oversight sweeps under the rug USFS public disclosure and review as would be provided by the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

Understandably this mining company is not eager to reveal to the public the environmental, cultural and historic problems and harms caused by their mine.

What does a mining company do when it wishes to circumvent the public process that would inform U.S. citizens of their mine's ground, air, water, surface, underground and aquifer pitfalls and pollutions? Likewise, what does this foreign mining company do when it wishes to bypass review and oversight of Native American cultural and historical harms, and its harms to endangered species and a priceless Sonoran Desert riparian habitat treasure? It goes to Congress and seeks the subterfuge and concealment provided by a USFS NEPA-exempt land swap.

The enclosed undersigned, as well as the 2300 members of the Maricopa Audubon Society, urge you to vote against this affront and concealment to open government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Robert A. Witzeman'.

Robert A. Witzeman, M.D., Conservation Chair, 602 840-0052, witzeman@cox.net