

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 687, the "Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2013." H.R. 687 is a bipartisan bill that would strike the proper balance between environmental stewardship and economic growth, providing the federal government with 5,344 acres of high-value conservation lands in exchange for 2,422 acres of land.

Copper is one of the fundamental building blocks of the economy, and is used in large quantities in a wide range of industries and applications, including telecommunications, construction, electricity, defense, automobile manufacturing, renewable energy, plumbing and household goods. According to industry estimates, a new automobile can use at least 55 pounds of copper, an average single-family home uses 439 pounds of copper, and a new wind turbine requires about 8 tons of copper, with an additional 5 tons needed for power connections.

The parcel of land conveyed by H.R. 687 could provide up to 25 percent of the annual U.S. demand for copper. And it will create long-term, high-paying jobs in a state that unquestionably needs them. The project's investment of over \$6 billion in private-sector dollars will create 3,700 jobs, \$220 million in annual wages, a \$60 billion plus economic jolt for the state of Arizona, and \$19 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues.

The U.S. Geological Survey states the U.S. now relies on foreign sources to provide 35 percent of the copper we consume. H.R. 687 would allow for the production of more than one billion pounds of copper per year for at least 40 years.

All that is standing in the way of these economic benefits is a land exchange, one that would more than double the size of the area being conserved. The Chamber calls on all Members to support H.R. 687 and unlock the potential for new jobs in Arizona.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten