

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick  
United States House of Representatives  
330 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0301

The Honorable Paul Gosar, DDS  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2013

Dear Representatives Kirkpatrick and Gosar:

I am a proud veteran of the Vietnam War and a former Councilman and Chairman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. With the exception of my time in the Marines, I have spent my entire life and raised my family on the reservation. I am writing in support of HR 687, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2013.

I testified in support of a predecessor bill (HR 1904) in the House Subcommittee on Energy and Natural Resources in 2011 and remain convinced that the land exchange is in the best interest of the Tribe and the region and state.

My position on the land exchange unfortunately is not shared by the current San Carlos Apache Tribal Council; however, it is my experience that the Council's position does not reflect the position of the majority of my fellow members of the Tribe. I am a Traditionalist and have followed the Apache way, but I believe that traditional Apache values are not mutually exclusive with economic development.

Our Tribe suffers from extreme poverty, serious health and social issues and unemployment that exceeds 70 percent. Our young people leave the reservation to work in the city because there are not enough jobs here. They do not return and this is a tragedy.

The proposed land exchange would enable Resolution Copper Mining to build and operate a mine that would bring thousands of jobs and prosperity to the region, including the reservation. It would help alleviate many of the challenges we face as a people, allowing us to achieve the self-determination and economic independence we so strongly desire.

I wholeheartedly support the legislation and urge you and your colleagues to pass the bill.

Sincerely,



Harrison Talgo, Sr.

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cc: Rep. Raul Grijalva  
Rep. Matt Salmon  
Rep. David Schweikert  
Rep. Ed Pastor  
Rep. Trent Franks  
Rep. Kyrsten Sinema