



April 30, 2013

Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
US House of Representatives
H-323, US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
Office of the Democratic Leader
H-204, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

The Arizona Mining Association is a non-profit business league comprised of entities engaged in metal mining, beneficiation and mineral processing activities in Arizona. Its members include (but are not limited to): ASARCO LLC, BHP Copper Inc., Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc., Carlota Copper Company, Mineral Park Inc., Rosemont Copper Company, Resolution Copper Company, and Peabody Energy. In 2011, AMA member companies produced approximately 68% of the nation's newly mined copper, along with significant amounts of associated valuable co-products (e.g., gold, silver, selenium, tellurium and molybdenum). In 2011, the Arizona copper industry employed approximately 11,300 people and had an estimated direct and indirect impact on the Arizona economy of nearly \$8.3 billion. In addition, our members are engaged in the mining of coal, uranium and other materials, and make significant contributions to the Arizona economy as a result of those activities. The AMA acquires and disseminates scientific and business information and participates in the development of legislations and regulations essential to the development of sound public policies affecting the mining industry in Arizona.

We are writing to request your support of the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange Conservation Act. As you are aware, this land exchange represents a tremendous opportunity to improve the long term economic vitality of the State of Arizona as well as convey to the citizens of the United States thousands of acres of sensitive parcels offering permanent protection to endangered species, preservation of key riparian habitats, and conservation of some of Arizona's most valuable lands.

We understand this legislation, H.R. 687, will receive a hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee in the near future. The Arizona Mining Association strongly supports this bi-partisan bill which has been sponsored by Representatives Paul Gosar and Ann Kirkpatrick. Throughout the life of the mine, this land exchange would generate over \$61 billion in economic value and contribute \$20 billion in tax revenue. In addition to the benefits to the local, state and federal government, the mine would provide 3,700 direct and indirect jobs that result in just over \$220 million in annual wages. We believe Congress has an excellent opportunity to provide an ideal balance between the expansion of jobs, local and state revenues, and diverse economic activity while conserving ecologically sensitive and pristine lands for future generations. Following several years of in-depth research, study, and debate we submit to you our sincere hope that this legislation can be swiftly approved so that the remarkable economic impacts of this exchange can begin to be fully implemented and realized.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if there is anything else we can do to help move H.R. 687 forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Norton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kelly Norton
President

cc: Representative Paul Gosar
Representative Ann Kirkpatrick