



**ARIZONA
ROCK
PRODUCTS
ASSOCIATION**

October 21, 2011

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

Re: H.R. 1904: Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011

Dear Representative Gosar,

The Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) appreciates your efforts to bring jobs, wealth and strategic materials to Arizona and the nation through your sponsoring of H.R. 1904: Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011. The passage of this legislation would not only employ thousands of Arizonans for decades, including members of our Association, but would also move the United States closer to becoming self-sufficient in its demand for copper, a metal integral to our nation's continued development and defense. ARPA strongly supports the project, land exchange and passage of this vital bill. By allowing the exchange of lands, this measure would secure the requisite lands necessary for Resolution Copper to develop this world-class ore body.

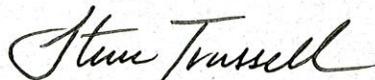
The Arizona Rock Products Association has been providing representation for 46 member companies involved with the production of aggregates, asphaltic concrete, ready mix concrete, asphalt, lime products, and portland cement. ARPA members, include over 49 associate members providing related transportation, contracting, and consulting services many of which could be potentially employed by the Resolution project. ARPA supports the importance of mining in the State of Arizona and the benefits to our State's economy, jobs and products that add to the quality of our lives.

In 2010, Arizona copper mines produced nearly 800,000 tons of copper or 63 percent of the nation's copper production. Even with Arizona's significant copper production, the United States continues to be a net importer of copper and is becoming more and more dependent on other countries for this strategic metal. If we do not continue to develop our resources at home, we could find ourselves reliant upon copper from other nations in the same way we are now reliant upon other nations for rare earth minerals and crude oil. At its peak, the Resolution Copper Project will produce 25 to 30 percent of our nation's copper needs; thereby substantially reducing this great nation's needs for imported copper.

The passage of H.R. 1904 will result in multi-faceted benefits to the United States and to Arizona. The bill requires the donation of more than 5,500 acres of high-quality conservation lands to the United States, ensuring that those lands are preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. In addition to conservation benefits, the mine is estimated to have a positive economic impact of \$46 billion over the life of the project. Much of this positive impact will be realized through the estimated 5,800 direct and indirect jobs that will be created when the mine reaches full production.

On behalf of the Arizona Rock Products Association, we thank you for your support of this project, the creation of jobs and this vital industry.

Sincerely yours,



Steve Trussell
Executive Director

Cc: U.S. Representative Trent Franks
U.S. Representative Ben Quale
U.S. Representative Ed Pastor
U.S. Representative David Schweikert
U.S. Representative Jeff Flake
U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva
U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords
U.S. Representative Rob Bishop
U.S. Representative Doc Hastings
U.S. Senator John McCain
U.S. Senator Jon Kyl
Arizona Governor Jan Brewer