



Our membership and services span the globe

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

Re: H.R. 687, *Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2013*

The Northwest Mining Association (NWMA) strongly supports H.R. 687, the *Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2013*. At a time when job creation remains a high priority, H.R. 687 is a common sense solution that will provide tremendous economic benefits to Arizona and the Nation, while providing high value conservation lands to the federal government. H.R. 687 is a win-win for jobs, the economy the environment and wildlife. H.R. 687 will reduce our Nation's dependence on foreign sources of critical and strategic minerals required for energy production and transmission and the manufacturing supply chain. We urge an affirmative vote on this important legislation.

NWMA is a 2,400 member national association representing the hardrock mining industry with members residing in 42 U.S. states, seven Canadian provinces or territories, and 10 other countries. NWMA represents the entire mining life cycle, from exploration to reclamation and closure, and is the national voice for exploration, the junior mining sector, and maintaining access to public lands. Our membership represents every facet of the mining industry including geology, exploration, mining, engineering, equipment manufacturing, technical services, and sales of equipment and supplies. Our broad-based membership includes many small miners and exploration geologists as well as junior and large mining companies. More than 80% of our members are small businesses or work for small businesses. Most of our members are individual citizens.

Copper is a critically important metal used in the production of electronics, transportation, machinery and renewable energy technologies. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. is 35% import reliant for our copper needs. H.R. 687 will enable the Resolution Copper project to produce enough copper to equal 25% of the current U.S. demand, thereby reducing our Nation's dangerous dependence on foreign sources for this critical and strategic metal.

H.R. 687 is the result of years of negotiations and compromise garnering strong bipartisan support among local constituents, state and local elected officials and a wide range of business and conservation interests. The federal government will receive more than 5,300 acres of high-priority conservation lands in exchange for approximately 2,400 acres of National Forest System land enabling the development of third largest undeveloped copper deposit in the world. The resulting mine will provide more than 3,700 new direct and indirect jobs, \$220.5 million in annual wages, an economic impact of more than \$61 billion over the life of the project while generating more than \$19 billion in federal, state county and local tax revenue.

The economic, conservation and environmental benefits outlined above depend on the passage of H.R. 687. We urge your support of this important bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,

Laura Skaer
Executive Director