

Statement of Joe Bardswich

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Public Listening Session

United States House of Representatives

April 11, 2016

Concerning

Government Land Grabs: Exposing the Truth

I have been a resident of Bullhead City since January, 2012. I come from a line of miners, mine supervisors, mine managers, mining engineers, environmental engineers and mine accountants. I am a Professional Engineer (P.E. Arizona) and am employed by my private company, L. J. Bardswich Mine Consultant Inc. My clients include large mining companies with annual revenues in the billions of dollars, junior companies with and without revenues, individuals, partnerships and LLCs. I am not at liberty to discuss any of my client's business matters that are not in the public record. I am grateful for the opportunities granted to me to work in the mining industry in America, in Canada, in Europe and in Africa.

I am grateful to be a citizen of this great Country, which has been the #1 economic power in this world for more than 100 years, and has also been the #1 minerals producer for most of that time. This is not a co-incidence. Mining creates wealth. Our State Mine Inspector, Joe Hart, a resident of Kingman, relates how he was the first one in his family to buy a new car before the age of 50. He did it while still a teen-ager because he had a job with a mining company. Former Congressman Pastor was the primary speaker at a function that I attended, wherein he spoke of the difference between "mountain boys" and "valley boys" in Arizona. Mountain boys had the advantages because generally they came from mining towns where jobs were secure and good paying and schools and medical facilities were above average because the mining companies financed them. A geologist, a good friend, lamented to me how he hated to accompany his wife, a high school teacher, to graduation ceremonies in Elko, NV, because "there is always a long line of students being awarded college scholarships from Newmont and Barrick, and it takes forever". The mining industry is a major contributor to the economy of the State of Arizona, the significance of which is often ignored. There are other folks testifying who, I am sure, will elaborate on this.

I have read a brief prepared by the Congressional Research Service in relation to the Antiquities Act and this excerpt jumped out at me:

"Most of these monument proclamations have barred new mineral leases, mining claims,

prospecting or exploration activities, and oil, gas, and geothermal leases, subject to valid existing rights. This has been accomplished by language to withdraw the lands within the monuments from entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, or other disposition under the public land laws, mining laws, and mineral and geothermal leasing laws.”

We are talking 1.7 million acres of federal land withdrawn from mineral exploration. Some will tell you there are lots of other areas around for mineral exploration, that there is not anything of significant mineral value in this area anyway etc. Similar things were said about the Hemlo area of Ontario, not a remote area, both the Trans-Canada highway and Canadian Pacific Railway traversed the area where a gold discovery was made in the early 1980's. The ore bodies contained 80 million ounces of gold (\$100 billion). The area covered by the mines measures less than 1000 acres.

Some will say that we should concentrate on tourism dollars for jobs. Tough to raise a family on minimum wage for 6 months of the year.

Some will say we should concentrate on technology. Good point! Areas where we lead the world in technology are in mining, mineral processing and mine environmental technology. Look at Resolution Copper, developing the technology to mine from depth in an historic mining area thought to be mined out. The project is anticipated to contribute in excess of \$60 billion to Arizona's economy. Americans, Canadians and Australians lead the world when it comes to mining in an environmentally friendly manner. The world demand for metals will continue, whether we mine in the United States or not. If we choose to diminish our mining industry, new mines will be opened elsewhere in places where no regard is given to protecting the environment. I was at a new mine site in an African country, where we were visited by government officials, very happy to see us spending money etc. I was not fluent in the language and asked my interpreter to ask which of two methods of reclamation they would prefer us to exercise. The response was “we have signed all the UN protocols” The question was repeated with exactly the same answer. I was a little taken aback and was going to follow up but the guy beside me said “he is trying to tell you, Joe, do whatever you feel like, his backside is covered because they have signed the protocols”

For the sake of jobs and our economy, for the sake of continuing American advances in mining industry technology and for the sake of the world's environment, we need to stop the land grab that the establishment of this monument would accomplish.