



ARIZONA CHAPTER ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS

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May 9, 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

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

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

The Arizona Chapter Associated General Contractors (AZAGC) is the oldest construction trade association in Arizona. AZAGC was established in 1934 to represent highway/heavy civil contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers and other construction affiliated companies. This represents over 20,000 construction professionals throughout the state.

The Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2013 (H.R. 687), would facilitate the development of an underground copper mine that will create **jobs (approximately 3,700)**, reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy and minerals as well as **generate revenue (over \$61 billion is projected)** for federal and state treasuries. In addition, the measure would transfer environmentally sensitive lands into federal stewardship. This legislation is not only a jobs bill, it's a conservation bill. The lands the federal government acquires in the exchange are highly-coveted recreational and conservation areas.

Over the last 5 years construction and its related industries have been hit hard by the recession. In Arizona alone the unemployment rate for construction at its peak reached over 20%. The passage of HR 687 will provide relief to construction as many of our members perform a number of construction related services at mine sites. This project will make an enormous difference in the lives of Arizonans as well as others around the United States, creating jobs, promoting sustainable mining operations, harvesting a vital natural resource and protecting conservation lands. All of this can be done without spending one cent of taxpayer money should you decide to move this legislation forward.

AZAGC requests you make every effort to move this legislation quickly to the House Floor for passage and transmission on to the United States Senate for their consideration. We are available to you and your staff should you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

David M. Martin
President

Sincerely,

Amanda H. McGennis
Sr. Vice President

Cc: Representative Paul Gosar
Representative Ann Kirkpatrick