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Special e-Newsletter on Jobs & the Economy

Archived 11/5

Dear Friend,

From the Desk of Congressman Gosar:

I'm very pleased to share the great news many of you have already heard—our major job legislation, H.R. 1904, was passed with bipartisan support by the U.S House of Representatives last Wednesday. The Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011 facilitates a land exchange that will bring into federal stewardship 5,500 acres of high-priority conservation lands in exchange for 2,600 acres of national forest system.

I want to thank all of you in our community who have joined me in the effort to help this great achievement come to pass. Your support, your feedback and your confidence were critical in passing this important piece of legislation.

Through our combined efforts we took a concept that wasn't new, but achieved what others could not. After listening and engaging with all parties we adapted and improved upon the land exchange in order to strike the right balance between resource utilization, environmental conservation, and economic development. Our work and this bill should now serve as a national model for what can be accomplished when all stakeholders come to the table and the government gets out of the way of private industry.

It is important to realize conservation and economic development are not mutually exclusive. H.R. 1904 preserves lands that advance the important public objectives of protecting wildlife habitat as well as cultural and historic resources, all while enabling an important economic development project to move forward.

The resulting project will generate economic and employment opportunities for state and local residents, facilitating the creation of nearly 3,700 jobs equating to \$220.5 million in annual wages. These jobs will pay well. Ultimately, this project will have a total economic impact of over \$61.4 billion, over \$1 billion annually, **according to a recent economic study**. You will see this investment in your communities and neighborhoods.

See Video of Congressman Gosar Presents Western Caucus Weekly Address on H.R. 1904:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYxAgeuJJ1s&feature=player_embedded

What Others Were Saying About This Bill:

National Federation of Independent Business

“Authorizing this land exchange will create an opportunity for a project that will create jobs and stimulate the local economy, bringing new demand for the goods and services of local small businesses,” said NFIB/Arizona State Director Farrell Quinlan. “Arizona’s small business community thanks Congressman Gosar for his leadership in bringing this bill before the House, and for recognizing the potential for this project to help give a much needed boost to small businesses in our state.”

In addition to the NFIB, numerous other groups nationwide have rallied in support of H.R. 1904. A sampling of some of the organizations and individuals in support of this bill include:

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

“The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world’s largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, supports H.R. 1904, the *Southeast Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011*, which would strike the proper balance between environmental stewardship and economic growth by providing the federal government with 5,344 acres of high-value conservation lands in exchange for 2,422 acres of land containing the third-largest undeveloped copper resource in the world. Copper is one of the fundamental building blocks of the economy, and is used in large quantities in a wide range of industries and applications, including telecommunications, construction, electricity, automobile manufacturing, renewable energy, plumbing and household goods... All that is standing in the way of these economic benefits is a land exchange, one that would more than double the size of the area being conserved.”

Arizona Chamber of Commerce

“This legislation will provide a huge stimulus to both the U.S. and Arizona economies without an infusion of any federal funds... You have the opportunity to make an enormous difference in the lives of Arizonans and, ultimately, the American public by creating jobs, promoting sustainable mining operations, harvesting a vital natural resource, protecting critical conservation lands, and revitalizing Arizona’s economy—all without spending one cent of taxpayer money.”

National Association of Manufacturers

“This legislation will be the first step in helping the United States to meet more of our domestic demand for copper. In fact, the proposed mine would produce enough copper to meet about 25% of the current U.S. demand. In doing so, it will also create jobs and generate nearly \$20 billion in federal, state, county and local tax revenue. We thank you for your efforts and recognition of this important issue and the impact it has on U.S.

manufacturers.”

The Nature Conservancy

The “Seven B” property contains nearly 7 miles of the lower San Pedro River as well as over 800 acres of ancient mesquite bosque representing what is probably the largest old-growth mesquite forest remaining in Arizona. As early as 1974, an Arizona Academy of Science report called for preserving the bosque as a scientific and educational natural area, and subsequent analysis by The Nature Conservancy and others have confirmed its conservation value. In addition to the mesquite bosque and river corridor, the Seven B contains an artesian well that has the potential for provide a recovery site for endangered desert fish species. Therefore, we support the federal acquisition of this parcel for conservation purposes.”

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer

“This legislation promises to provide a tremendous boost to job creation in both the U.S. and Arizona economies without an infusion of any federal stimulus funds... This transfer will allow for the full development of what we understand to be the largest copper deposit in North America—a deposit that provides high-paying jobs for at least 40-years and will produce over 20 percent of the annual U.S. demand for copper... We thank you for placing the passage of H.R. 1904 at the top of your list of critical job-creation legislation. Your efforts are making an enormous difference in the lives of Arizonans and, in fact, countless Americans, by creating jobs, promoting sustainable mining operations, harvesting a vital natural resource, protecting critical conservation lands, and revitalizing Arizona's economy—all without spending one cent of taxpayer money.”

Harrison Talgo, Former Chairman of San Carlos Apache Tribe

“I believe that traditional Apache values are not mutually exclusive with economic development... Seven in ten eligible workers in the tribe are unemployed. Almost 80 percent of our people live in poverty... Without jobs, our children are forced to move to neighboring communities or into the city to find work. Not many of them return. With each passing generation, a piece of Apache identity and culture is lost... Economic progress and prosperity leads to a better standard of living, better health, better services and better education... I can assure you I do not stand alone as a member of the San Carlos Apache Nation in support of the Resolution Copper Mine and the jobs and prosperity it will create.”

Mayor Michael Hing, Town of Superior, Arizona

“This land exchange represents an unprecedented opportunity to improve the long-term economic vitality of my community, our local counties, the state, and the region. It is one thing to talk about the creation of new jobs and economic opportunity, and quite another to actually take action...like H.R. 1904 does...that will expedite the creation of those jobs and result in large increases in local, state, and federal tax revenues.”

Vice Chairman Brian Martyn, on behalf of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors

“There are few issues that are more critical to Pinal County’s economic growth, stability and quality of life than H.R. 1904... My point is simple: this issue is not about politics;

it's about enhancing the quality of life of the citizens in Pinal County and Arizona... Pinal County has not been immune to the negative effects of the recent recession. While still growing, the county yearns for good, high-paying jobs. The Resolution Copper project is one of the biggest economic development projects in Arizona and the largest in Pinal County... In many ways, this legislation exemplifies why we chose this profession; to improve the quality of life of our constituents. This project represents all we value as Americans: stewardship of our environment, improved education of our children and our workforce, enhanced economic prosperity, and the ability to make a better future for those around us."

Michael Pastor and Tommie Cline Martin, Gila County Board of Supervisors

"I am writing to you in support of your initiative to enact federal legislation approving the land swap necessary to allow Resolution Copper to open the copper mine in southeast Arizona. As we have discussed before, reviving this mine operation will create much needed, good paying jobs in our region."

This bill, which passed with bi-partisan support, also garnered notable support of local and national business leaders. A full list of supporters and their full letters of support can be found here: <http://gosar.house.gov/HR1904BusinessSupport>

In the News:

***The Arizona Republic* Editorial Board states: "In today's economy, it's hard to imagine that members of Congress would fail to give this bill a resounding approval in the House."**

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/2011/10/25/20111025jobs-bill-editorial.html#ixzz1cmG1wicF>

House votes to boost huge Arizona copper mine by *The Arizona Republic*

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2011/10/26/20111026arizona-mine-development-superior.html>

Senators Kyl and McCain Praise House Vote on Southeast Arizona Land Exchange

http://www.wmicentral.com/news/latest_news/senators-kyl-and-mccain-praise-house-vote-on-southeast-arizona/article_045151de-0029-11e1-ba1b-001cc4c03286.html

Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

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